FSC 830 Community Development: Principles and Practices

Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:00 AM
YFCS Conference Room, University Center, Greenville

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.”

— Jean Vanier.

Syllabus for FCS 830

· Requirements
· Readings
· Resources
· Grading
Instructor:
Dr. Arelis Moore de Peralta, Research Assistant Professor, Clemson University’s Department of Youth, Family and Community Studies/Department of Languages, 2078 Barre Hall Clemson, SC 29634. Office: 864-656-0719, Cell Ph: 864-650-1667, Email: ared@g.clemson.edu.

Office Hours
My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays at Barre Hall, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the University Center office, by appointment only. We could also arrange meetings through SKYPE. To arrange appointments please either call me or e-mail me.

Policy on Instructor No Show
If the instructor is not there for some unforeseen reason, an assistant from YFCS will be there to notify students. If a meaningful class session cannot be held, then, at the convenience of students, a make-up session will be scheduled. In any case, students are not obligated to stay any more than 15 minutes from the scheduled start of the class.

Course Description
This course will provide an in-depth review and discussion of community development principles and practices. It is focused on the development of community initiatives in which children, youth and families are supported, and individual and family developments are enhanced and protected. These initiatives will be also contextualized in diverse or multicultural communities, in particular challenges and necessary adaptations for community development will be discussed.

The philosophical, theoretical and practical applications of major approaches to development are discussed, including the differences among community development, community building, community transformation, capacity building, sustainable community building, and participatory development. Different approaches to community development will be reviewed with an emphasis on asset-based approaches. A broad range of literature from across the world is presented.

In addition, this course will incorporate Critical Thinking (CT2) strategies with the objective of actively engaging you in thinking deeply about various issues related to community development. Critical thinking is not about merely learning about content, but having the ability to think clearly and rationally. Because this course has a focus on critical thinking, it will not be taught in a traditional lecture format but will take form around class discussions about course readings and case studies. Thus, for you to be successful in this course you must engage with the readings carefully and come prepared to discuss them in class. CT2 seminars are part of the Clemson University’s Quality Enhancement Plan – more information can be found here: http://www.clemson.edu/academics/programs/thinks2/.

The course is framed to tap into some of the key international discourse involving community work. Multiple perspectives on how to think about community and engage in community building are contrasted and compared. Emphasis is on work in multicultural, cross national environments. Lessons
learned from successes around the world will be reviewed, with an emphasis on the United States.

The course content is oriented to the theoretical and practical contributions of sociology, planning, communication, anthropology, community development, community psychology and political science. By the time a student completes this course should be able to:

- Identify and summarize the major theories of community, community building and development, with particular focus on principles of development that enhance neighborhood, child, youth, and family well-being.
- Understand and explain the differences in practice that results from following different theories of community.
- Analyze how community development practice has changed over time and what the latest advances in the field are.
- Categorize strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and determine their implications in taking action on community challenges.
- Evaluate and explain how some of the latest trends in globalization and technology has influenced the theory and practice of community development.
- Compare and contrast selected internationally recognized examples of community development initiatives that have effectively worked.
- Have opportunity to form their own view of perspectives on community and professional practice, drawing on some of the authors they have been exposed to during class and through readings.
- Develop a practical understanding of community principals to evaluate their own and others’ efforts in community development.

**Class Organization**

Community Development is a reading intensive course. It means that class attendance and actual reading of the materials is absolutely essential for this class to run smoothly, as you will be expected to join every class prepared to discuss what you have read. Readings are pre-assigned at the beginning of the course for each session. At the beginning of the class, the instructor will generally present short lectures and videos to introduce certain concepts pertaining to the topic of the week. These presentations and videos will be combined with several critical thinking questions to engage students in a critical examination of the weekly topic during class discussion. Certain sessions will include short essays addressing the corresponding topic. These essays will be due at the time of the class discussion and will be used for this end. In addition, the student will submit two papers on community development core themes: a research brief and a literature review. These two papers and essays will be evaluated on a rubric to assess the process of developing critical thinking skills. Students will be assigned the role of discussion leader of a community development core concept. Presentation topics will be selected by the student and instructor at the beginning of the class. In every session, students need to post a question for discussion, based on the readings, in Blackboard. These questions will be posted by Monday at noon each week. Selected questions will be analyzed in class.
Assignments

- **Research Brief on a community development topic:** By taking a topic from the suggestions discussed in class or one proposed by you, an 8 pages maximum, double-space (not including references) paper will be required. A research brief is a structured document discussed and given to research and practice agencies. To write your brief you should choose a structure that fits your needs and interests. Specifically, need to specify what do you want to emphasize and/or portrait from your research or topic of interest. For instance, you can begin with a short summary of the situation of the topic at hand, and define clearly what is already known about it. It’s helpful if you also include details on who is responsible for the contents of the brief (i.e., who is leading the study or which one is your mayor source of information on the topic). You could follow with your research objectives if applicable. For research objectives, what issues and topics do you want to explore or discover? What problems do you need to solve? You could continue with methods on how data will be or was collected. For non-research briefs, you can explain the sources of the brief contents. You could continue with results, discussion and conclusion for research report. For description of issues or topics you can decide on how structure the description of main findings or relevant data on the topic. In both cases (original research or topic description), you must include a conclusion and recommendations for future research and practice. The research brief is due Oct. 12. Criteria for grading can be found on Blackboard.

- **Literature review paper on community development core themes.** By taking a topic from the suggestions discussed in class or one proposed by you, a 25 pages maximum, double-space (not including references) paper will be required. The paper is a comprehensive literature review, which should follow methodological considerations as discussed in class. In addition, the comprehensive literature review should include two of the core concepts discussed in class. In addition, the review should be written based on a theoretical/conceptual framework. This framework should be used to organize the structure of the paper. Students should demonstrate a coherent and logical utilization of the framework to guide and/or to organize their literature review on the selected topic.

Students must submit a one-page paper proposal by Sept. 21. In order to provide timely feedback, a 6-page draft of the paper is due by Nov. 9 and the final paper is due the last week of class (Dec. 2nd). Criteria for grading are found in Blackboard so you would know the basis upon which I will grade.

In order to write this paper, you will have to spend time understanding key concepts of theory and practice related to your topic and be able to condense these concepts into short, understandable paragraphs which cut to the heart of the what, why, how, with illustrations from the where, when and what. Students must pursue an adequate integration of the two core concepts with the central topic of the paper.
• **One essay on a community development related topic.** Students will complete one essay on a topic preselected by the facilitator. Essay is due Sept. 7.

• **Meta-cognition report.** This report will be completed based in your process and methods used to write your essay. Meta-cognition report is due Oct. 26.

• **Course presentation and leading discussion on core concepts.** One and a half hour will be allotted for a presentation and leading a discussion of the core concepts included in each class session. Students will select two of the core concepts for presentation in two separate sessions. Students will select these two core concepts the first day of class. Students will decide on resources to be used for this end (Power Point, videos, etc.). Assigned readings in the course syllabus should be included in presentation’s contents. In addition, at least one of the optional readings should be included. 60 minutes will be used for presentation and 30 minutes for a Q and A session. Criteria for grading the oral presentation/leading discussion are found on Blackboard.

• **Class participation.** Required class participation is evaluated based on students’ demonstration of having read the assigned documents through mastery of concepts and theoretical integration. Students will also need to post at least one question, emerging from the readings, and for discussion during class for each session and/or its core concept. This question will need to be posted on Blackboard before 12:00 PM the Monday before class. For sessions covering more than one week questions should be posted in the second corresponding week.
  o The course is a combination of lectures and seminars. In order for the course to be effective, each has to carry their fair share of the responsibility for being prepared for class. Therefore, all readings indicated by the instructor for full reading the week before class (rather than skim reading or optional reading) need to be read and enough time spent to understand what was read. Analysis, integration and synthesis are expected. If you want to expand your knowledge in a particular topic or concept, you could review the “Optional Readings” guide to find other readings suggested by the instructor.
  o Online students will be expected to interact with the content, instructor and classmates in real time, on a weekly basis through course assignments and discussions as indicated in this syllabus. Students will join the class through Adobe Connect with this link https://connect.clemson.edu/fcs830.

• **California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST):** The CCTST is the premier critical thinking test that has been used across the U.S. as a discipline-neutral measure of reasoning. It has been designed to permit test-takers to demonstrate the critical thinking skills required to succeed in educational or workplace settings where solving problems and making decisions by forming reasoned judgments are important. The test items range in difficulty and complexity, typically taking 45 – 50 minutes to complete. In FCS 830, you will complete this exam twice, once at the beginning of the semester (pre-Aug. 2) and once at the end (post-Dec. 2). You will not be graded based on your
performance in this test, however you will receive participation points for completing the exam both times. The CCTST has been included so that Clemson can collect data on the effectiveness of this course and other CT2 seminars.

**Grading**

The following summarizes the basis for your grade. For each assignment you will find the grading criteria on Blackboard under “Assignments” so you know the basis that will be used to judge your work.

- Comprehensive literature review on a community development topic and two core concepts: 40% (due Dec. 2)
  - One-page paper proposal due by Sept. 21.
  - 6 pages paper draft due by Nov. 9.
- One essay: 10% (due Sept. 7)
- Presentation/leading discussion of two core concepts 10% each: 20%
- Class participation; submission of question on Blackboard for each section (Monday before noon); CT Pre-Post Test Completion (Due Aug. 24th) 5%
- Meta-cognition report 5% (due Oct. 26)

All reports are to be submitted electronically. My feedback on your paper will be done electronically as well. Assignments are designed to strengthen your capabilities to engage in critical thinking, synthesis and to develop original analytical frameworks. While the assignments don’t require you to memorize theories and practice principles, students should take this occasion to master synthesis skills so that core concepts on community development are incorporated into your working knowledge and practice.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Policy: Violations of the principles outlined in the graduate philosophy on academic integrity will be pursued to the fullest extent according to the procedures outlined below. Violations of academic integrity include violations in coursework, research, independent projects, practica, internships, comprehensive and qualifying exams, theses and dissertations and other publications or works submitted as requirements for receipt of a degree. Non-degree seeking students may also be charged with violations of academic integrity.

This policy broadly defines and provides examples of violations of academic integrity, categorizes the seriousness of violations into four levels, and establishes guidelines for discerning appropriate sanctions for each. As there is no way to identify within this policy all of the possible violations of academic integrity, the policy and ensuing procedures are intended as a general guide for faculty in all colleges to enable consistent, reasonable, and fair judgments of graduate student actions incongruous with the fundamental values and general philosophy described above. It further describes the steps to be followed by faculty bringing charges against graduate students for violations of academic integrity. The authority
to resolve cases of violations of academic integrity by enrolled graduate students is vested in the Graduate Academic Integrity Committee.

Violations of academic integrity may include, but are not limited to, the following: Cheating; Fabricating/falsifying information; Facilitating violations of academic integrity; Failing to cite contributors; and, Thwarting others’ progress. For details explanations on these examples of violations please visit https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/files/pdfs/gs_policy_handbook.pdf.

Copyright Statement

Materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. Refer to the Use of Copyrighted Materials and “Fair Use Guidelines” policy on the Clemson University website for additional information: http://www.lib.clemson.edu/copyright/.

Writing-style Requirements

All formal written assignments requiring citations should follow APA (6th edition) guidelines for writing. I would recommend purchasing the APA 6th Edition Manual now (http://www.apastyle.org/). Otherwise, they are for checkout in the library and much of the information can be found online.

Other online resources for APA formatting:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

http://media.clemson.edu/library/all_subjects/styleguides/apa.pdf

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Student Disability Services coordinates the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with physical, emotional, or learning disabilities. Accommodations are individualized, flexible, and confidential and are based on the nature of the disability and the academic environment, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Students are encouraged to consult with the Disability Services staff early in the semester, preferably prior to the first day of class. Current documentation of a specific disability from a licensed professional is needed. Additional information or appointments are available from Student Disability Services, Suite 239 in the Academic Success Center, 656-6848. Details on policies and procedures are available at www.clemson.edu/sds.

The Clemson University Title IX (Sexual Harassment) statement

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran’s status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to
prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The policy is located at http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/non-discrimination-policy.html. Jerry Knighton serves as Clemson’s Title IX coordinator and he may be reached at knightl@clemson.edu or 656-3181.

**Use of Cell Phones and Laptops during class:**
Students are expected to silence their cell phones during class. It is neither appropriate nor respectful for students to answer their cell phones, play games, text, surf the web, go on Facebook or work on material not related to this course during a class session. Students should engage in class activities and related work so that they understand the material presented. It will be to your advantage to pay attention and participate in class.

**Fall Semester 2016 Calendar**

Aug. 15, M New Student Convocation
Aug 15-16, M-Tu Late enrollment
Aug 16, Tu University Convocation
Aug 17, W Classes begin
Aug 23, Tu Last day to register or add a class or declare Audit
Aug 30, Tu Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University without a W grade
Sep 6, Tu Last day to apply for December graduation
Oct 7, F Last day for instructors to issue midterm evaluations
Oct 21, F Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University without final grades
Nov 7-8, M-Tu Fall break
Nov 9, W Registration for spring and summer terms begins
Nov 23-25 W-F Thanksgiving holidays
Dec 1-2, Th-F Classes meet; exams permitted in labs only
Dec 5-9, M-F Examinations
Dec 12, M 9:00 A.M.—Deadline to submit candidate grades
Dec 14, W 9:00 A.M.—Deadline to submit other grades
Dec 14, W Candidates for graduation may access grades
Dec 15, Th Graduation

**Reading Assignments**
Reading assignments are found on pages 9 to 18 of the syllabus. A table summary is also included in pages 19 and 20. Be sure to look at Blackboard for the week in case the instructor posts new materials for your review during the course of the semester.
Contents

Session 1 (August 17, 24): Introduction to the course; Critical Thinking; Conceptualizing Community and Community Development; Community Development theory and practice. Critical Thinking Pre-Test due August 24th.

Introduction to the course

- Syllabus and assignments.

Critical Thinking and Meta-cognition


Critical Thinking Outcomes. Students will be expected to:

- Evaluate the advantages of the critical thinking process over other traditional methods of learning.
- Explain which modifications to their own learning styles are needed to incorporate critical thinking in their learning process
- Analyze the relevance and implications of the critical thinking and meta-cognition methodology for this course.

Conceptualizing Community and Community Development; Community Development theory and practice.

1. How is community defined?
2. What is the practical value of having working definitions in mind?
3. What normative structures are related to definitions?
4. What are some of the elements of definitions that have made their way into several different approaches to practice?
5. How is community development defined?
6. Which are the core elements of community development as a concept?
7. What is the history of community development in America?

What is community?

- See Diaz’s review of definitions and commonalities in definitions of community at http://uregina.ca/~sauchyn/socialcohesion/definitions%20of%20community.htm
What is Community Development?

- What is community development?: http://infed.org/mobi/what-is-community-development/
- Review definitions of community development at http://uregina.ca/~sauchyn/socialcohesion/definitions%20of%20community%20development.html

CORE CONCEPT: SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- See original scale (12 items) at: http://www.communityscience.com/pubs/Sense%20of%20Community%20Index.pdf.
- Review the following summary about SOC: http://www.wright-house.com/psychology/sense-of-community.html.

Session 2 (august 31 and September 7): Community Development and changing societies: social diversity. Essay due Sept. 7.

1. How are racial and ethnic populations changing in communities today?
2. What are the effects of these changes on community development practice?
3. Which adaptations are needed in order to absorb and successfully incorporate such changes?

For your essay you will discuss and provide your answers to the three questions (above). Due Sept. 7.


**CORE CONCEPT: SENSE OF BELONGING**

*Theory*


*Sense of Belonging*


**Session 3 (September 14 and 21): Approaches to professional work in/with community groups. One page paper proposal due Sept. 21.**

- What are the different approaches which have been used in professional work in/with community groups during the past decades?
- What are the contributions of the various approaches?
- Which are the principles that guide professionals in each approach?
  - How are professionals guided in each approach to build relationships and conduct conversations?
  - How fast can change be achieved within communities?
  - Who are the agents of change and what are their roles?

**Three themes of community development (“How to do”)**

a. Self-help, non-directive, or cooperative
b. Technical intervention, planning, or assistance
c. Conflict or confrontation

**Selected Approaches to Community Development**

1. **Participatory and Bottom-up Community Development**
   - The Bottom-up Approach: The case of LEADER:
     - Chapter IV-Slides show-LEADER-posted in BB.

2. **Sustainable development**

3. **Directive vs. non-directive approach for community development**

4. **Community Economic Development Strategies**

5. **People-Centered Development**
   - **People-centered development** is an approach to international development that focuses on improving local communities' self-reliance, social justice, and participatory decision-making. Go to David Korten's People Centered Development Forum at [http://livingeconomiesforum.org/](http://livingeconomiesforum.org/).
review “The Great Turning”/”Earth Community”, and “The New Economy”. Korten coined the term “people-centered development” to contest the traditional international development approaches.


Session 4, September 28: Issue-based or problem-based community development in practice.

In this session we will examine issue-based community development practices: How issues are identified, how the community organizes to address those issues, and how community participants get effectively involved in this process. We will also examine the importance of empowerment to successfully address, from within, issues identified within communities. We will analyze two selected issue-based approaches and explore the effectiveness and challenges for each approach.


Two issues-based approaches to community change:

1. **National Association of County and Community Health Officials Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP model).** At http://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-infrastructure/mapp

   Review the six (6) MAPP phases as well.

   *Case Study: Lee County, FL at*

   http://archived.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/demosites/upload/LeeCountyFLCaseStudy.pdf


CORE CONCEPT: EMPOWERMENT


**Session 5 (October 5 and 12): Asset/Strengths/Capacity-based Approaches.** Research Brief due Oct. 12.

“Asset-based community development (ABCD) is an alternative approach to community development that starts with what is present in a community, such as the capacities and assets of local individuals, associations, and institutions, rather than with what is deficient in a community and what a community’s needs are” (Keeble, 2006). “Gifts, skills and capacities of individuals, associations and institutions within a community” (Kretzmann and McKnight, 1993).

Assets-based community development has its roots in community-based education, it involves how practitioners relate to community members, and also has philosophical roots in a theory of change.

- International Association for Community Development. (Nov. 2009). What Are Asset-Based Approaches to Community Development? Online Report.
- Kretzmann, J. P. & McKnight, J. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets.* Chicago, IL: Acta Publications.

**VIDEO:** Holding ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street. Posted in Blackboard. Students will watch the video and be prepared for discussion in class.


**CORE CONCEPT: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Why it is important for citizens to participate in their own community building efforts? Which processes are related to meaningful participation by community members? Why should we emphasize children’s, youth’s and women’s participation? How can we help persons with disability participate in community development? Through the reading process, you should be able to connect citizen participation to sense of community, attachment to place, sense of belonging, and empowerment.
Session 6 (October 19): Building Social Capital in Communities.

“The central premise of social capital is that social networks have value. Social capital refers to the collective value of all "social networks" (who people know) and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other ("norms of reciprocity").” (The Saguaro Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School).

The concept of social capital will be reviewed by discussing:

- What is bonding and bridging social capital?
- Why is social capital important for community development?
- What is done to build social capital in communities?
- How is social capital measured?
- What are the negative aspects of social capital?


**CORE CONCEPT: COLLECTIVE EFFICACY**


Family support emerged in the mid-1970s to fill gaps families were experiencing in their support. Combining knowledge about child development, family systems, and the impact of communities on families, this grassroots movement focused on preventing family crises and promoting healthy family functioning. Most of these programs called themselves "family resource programs". They fostered a welcoming environment so that parents could feel that in at least one place in the community, someone understood and valued the work they were doing with their kids (Best Practices Project, 1996). These programs emphasized family-to-family support rather than dependence on professional support systems, and their services were—and still are—entirely voluntary. From a family support perspective, seeking help in parenting is a sign of strength.

(Source: http://www.practicenotes.org/vol5_no1/what_is_family_support_mvmt.htm)


**CORE CONCEPT: SOCIAL SETTINGS**


Session 8 (November 2): Community Development and Research.


**CORE CONCEPT: COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH-TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

- Text, Chapter 1: Minkler & Wallerstein, Introduction to Community Based Participatory Research.
- Text, Chapter 3: Israel, B. et al. Critical issues in developing and following Community Based Participatory Research principles.
Session 9 (November 9): Geographic Information System (GIS) for Community Development: The Power of Mapping. 6 pages paper draft due Nov. 9.

A geographic information system (GIS) lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends. GIS is the go-to technology for making better decisions about location. Common examples include allocation of resources, route/corridor selection, evacuation planning, conservation, natural resource extraction, etc. Making correct decisions about location is critical to the success of an organization or program.

This is going to be an interactive section. Students must have their laptops with them. Patricia Carbajales, Research Associate and Cyberinfrastructuture Technical Integration at Clemson University, will be facilitating this interactive GIS session.

Session 10 (November 16): Community Building: Building Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities movement seeks to achieve radical, measurable improvement in health status and long-term quality of life. We are going to review this framework including the theory and methods that support this movement.


CORE CONCEPT: SOCIAL NETWORKS AND NETWORKING

Session 11 (November 30): The Future of Community Development.

- Comprehensive Literature Review due Dec 2.
- Critical Thinking Post-test due, Dec. 2th.

CORE CONCEPT: ONLINE/VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES

- What are Online Communities at [http://www.partnerships.org.uk/community/what.htm](http://www.partnerships.org.uk/community/what.htm)
- Review about Online Communities at [https://www.feverbee.com/about-us/](https://www.feverbee.com/about-us/)
### Calendar, Fall Semester 2014

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- Topic: 11 readings
- Core concept: 5 readings
- *CT Pre-Test Online Due Aug. 24*
- Topic: 6 readings
- Core concept: 5 readings
- *Essay Due Sept. 7*
- Topic and approaches: 12 readings
- *One page paper due Sept. 21*
- Topic: 4 readings
- Core concept: 3 readings
- *Research Brief due Oct. 12*
- Topic: 3 readings
- Core concept: 2 readings
- *Second Essay Due October 21*
- Topic: 3 readings
- Core concept: 2 readings
- *Meta-cognition report Due October 26*
- Topic: 1 reading
- Core concept: 2 readings
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<td>11/23</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
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<td>11/30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Future of community development</td>
<td>Topic: 2 readings</td>
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<td>Core Concept: Online/Virtual communities</td>
<td>Core concept: 4 readings</td>
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<td><strong>Final paper due (Comprehensive Literature Review), Dec. 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Critical Thinking Post-Test Due Dec. 2</strong></td>
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