Syllabus

Community Psychology (Course PSY8350) Fall, 2002

Professor: Paul A. Toro


This course will examine the discipline of community psychology. Readings will be from the text above, with a variety of supplementary required readings from other sources. There will also be a set of optional readings. These optional readings may be particularly useful in preparing written assignments. Readings on a particular topic should be read before the class dealing with that topic (see class schedule below). The text will be available at Marwil's and the University Bookstore. The set of supplementary readings and many of the optional readings will be made available for copying by interested students and will be kept in the instructor's research offices at 51 W. Warren.

Class time will be used to expand upon the reading material. The instructor will provide new material related to the readings, will highlight certain points in the readings, and will share his own experiences as a community psychologist. Some classes will involve demonstrations, films, and guest speakers from the community. Since material that goes beyond that in the readings will generally be provided in class, it is to the student's advantage to attend all classes. Students are encouraged to share their own relevant experiences and to raise questions in class.

Student Evaluation

I use the following approach to course evaluation because I prefer not to use exams as a motivator for your reading. A major purpose of the assignments is to ensure that you read the required material. Student evaluation will be based on three components:

(1) 8 Brief Commentaries (30% of grade). You are to prepare notes (1-2 double-spaced pages) about issues you would like to discuss in class. These notes may be about specific studies, questions about concepts, questions for the instructor, or issues you would like to have discussed in class. Please e-mail these to me or leave them in my Psychology Dept. mailbox at least 24 hours prior to the class session during which the topic is to be discussed (see Class Schedule and reading assignments below). We have a total of 13 classes (not counting the first). You must hand in at least 8 of these commentaries.

(2) 4 Essays (40% of grade). For each of the four major sections of the course (see Class Schedule below), you must prepare an essay (about 5-10 double-spaced pages) to demonstrate that you have read the required readings. You may integrate several of the readings, critique them, try your own formulation of the issues, develop a research idea, or apply the concepts to some problem currently of interest to you. Optional readings can be used as resources in these essays (as well as in the brief commentaries described above) to augment required readings and class material. If you don't see a ready integration of all material in a particular section, you can break your essay up into several parts. Each essay is due on the last class scheduled in the corresponding section. Students may
substitute one of the 4 essays with a brief (15-20 minute) class presentation on a relevant topic (which must be approved by the instructor in advance).

(3) Participation (30% of grade). Attendance and both the quantity and quality of contributions made in class discussions will count toward your grade. I will call on you from time to time to comment or to discuss a reading assigned for that day.

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 1: Introduction, Historical Background, and Basic Perspectives</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Defining the Field</td>
<td>Ch 1. Su 1</td>
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<td>History &amp; Community Psychology</td>
<td>Ch 2, Op 3-4</td>
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<td>9/12</td>
<td>Community Research</td>
<td>Ch. 3-4, Su 2, Op 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Ecological Perspectives &amp; Diversity (Essay 1 due)</td>
<td>Ch 5-7, Su 3-5, Op 5-8</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Coping</td>
<td>Ch 7-8, Su 6-7, Op 9-13</td>
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<td>10/3</td>
<td>Community &amp; Social Support</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>Nonprofessional Help &amp; Mutual Help Groups</td>
<td>Su 8-11, Op 18-28</td>
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<td>10/17</td>
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<td>Op 14-17</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>Prevention &amp; Health Promotion</td>
<td>Ch 9-11</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
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<td>Su 12</td>
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<td>11/7</td>
<td>No class (Dr. Toro out of town)</td>
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<td>11/14</td>
<td>Prevention &amp; Health Promotion</td>
<td>Su 13-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Citizen Participation &amp; Empowerment</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<td>11/26</td>
<td>Programs for the Mentally Ill (Tues sched as Thurs)</td>
<td>Su 17-19, Op 30-33</td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>Homelessness &amp; Poverty</td>
<td>Su 20-22, Op 34-42</td>
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"Ch" in the schedule above refers to chapters in the text, "Su" to supplemental readings from the list below, and "Op" to optional readings from the second list below. The chapters and supplemental readings are required. This class schedule is subject to minor changes (to be announced in class).

**Supplemental Readings**
12 (to come from Sylvie Lombardo)


Optional Readings


*These Optional Readings are available in the copy room at the instructor's research offices (rm. 3249 at 51 W, Warren).