Introduction to Community Psychology
Georgia State University
PSYC 4510 (CRN 81751)
FALL 2004

Instructor: Gabriel Kuperminc
Meeting Times: Tues. & Thurs. 1:00-2:15

PREREQUISITES
Upper division status or permission of instructor

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will become knowledgeable about the following:
• The historical, social, scientific, professional, and political antecedents to community psychology
• The basic assumptions and values of community psychology
• The primary intervention strategies used by community psychologists
• The primary research strategies used by community psychologists
• The application of community psychology to a range of social issues

As part of GSU’s initiative to elucidate a set of general learning outcomes for all courses taught in the university (see http://www.gsu.edu/~wwapa/goalsassessmentofgeneraleducation.html), faculty have reviewed each undergraduate course in the psychology department in order to specify the ways in which it contributes both to the department’s overall learning goals and objectives and to the university’s general learning outcomes. A list of the learning goals and objectives specific to this course is posted with course materials on WebCT VISTA under the heading “PSYC 4510 Learning Goals/Outcomes.”

TEXTBOOK - Available at the GSU Bookstore.

WEBCT VISTA
This syllabus, lecture outlines, and additional course materials will be available on WebCT VISTA. I will also use VISTA to post schedule changes. All students are expected to check VISTA regularly for schedule updates.

COURSE FORMAT AND ASSIGNMENTS
The class will use a combination of lecture, discussion, videos, class exercises, and guest speakers. Students are expected to have read assigned text chapters by the dates assigned and to contribute to class discussions in a meaningful fashion.

Exams (180 points). There will be three exams (60 points each), each covering approximately one-third of the course. The format of the exams will be multiple choice, true-false, and short answer.

Thought Papers (30 points). You will prepare three “thought papers” (10 points each) during the semester. These papers should include personal and thoughtful reactions to the readings and lecture material on four different topics presented during the class. The papers may contain criticism of one or more readings or lectures, integration of the material, an application to a specific experience of your own, or an idea stimulated by the readings. These papers must be printed with a 12-point font, double-spaced, and with 1-inch margins. The papers should be 1-2 pages in length and should be uploaded to VISTA. Due dates for thought papers are September 15, October 13, and November 17 by 5 p.m.

Term Project (80 points total). This project will be based on your familiarity with a community organization addressing a social problem of your choosing. You must choose a social issue/problem you are interested in learning more about, identify a local organization that addresses it, arrange for the opportunity to visit their office(s) and meet with at least one member of the organization to learn about how it operates. The four parts of the project will summarize this experience, and provide your analysis of how the organization reflects, or fails to reflect, the principles of community psychology, which you have learned through the course. There will be due dates throughout the semester (see below). Each part of the project must be typed using a 12-point font, double-spaced, and with 1-inch margins. Each part of the assignment should have a cover page including a title for your project, the course title, your name and the date the assignment is turned in. All assignments should be uploaded to VISTA.
• **Identify your topic and begin the research process** *(10 points, Due Oct. 6).* The completed assignment for Part 1 will consist of: (1) a statement of your topic, (2) a list of 3-4 key terms for a literature search, and (3) citations in APA style for at least 2 scholarly articles, chapters or books (not including your textbook) that you expect to use in your research.

• **Prepare a literature review** *(30 points, Due Oct., 20).* The completed assignment for Part 2 of your term project will be a brief, 3-page, literature review summarizing research relevant to your topic. You must cite at least 3 sources from your search of scholarly literature (You may also cite your textbook and 1 or more sources from the popular literature, but this is in addition to, not instead of the scholarly sources). Include a reference page at the end.

• **Identify your organization** *(10 points, Due Nov., 3).* The completed assignment for Part 3 of your term project will consist of: (1) Identification of the organization, including the name and address of the organization and contact information for a person you plan to interview there; (2) a list of at least 5 interview questions you plan to ask in your interview.

• **Prepare an organizational description** *(30 points, Due Dec. 9).* The final part of your term project (Part 4) integrates what you learned about your social issue in Part 2 and what you learned about the organization you chose to research. The completed assignment will consist of: (1) a description of the organization and it’s approach to the social problem; and (2) your own assessment and reflections on the organization from the point of view of a community psychologist.

**Class Participation** *(10 points).* Participation points are earned in large part by being in class. Participation points are earned through (1) raising questions and comments in class, (2) participating in in-class discussions, activities, and assignments; (3) posting discussion messages on VISTA, and (4) bringing relevant news articles into class.

**GRADING**

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the total earned during the semester, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS EARNED</th>
<th>LETTER GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>270-300</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240-269</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>210-239</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>180-209</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>179 or fewer</td>
<td>F</td>
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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments/Activities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td>Introduction and orientation to the course &lt;br&gt;Log onto WebCT VISTA and complete the online survey for Week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Community psychology: Where it came from and what it is &lt;br&gt;Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>Community psychologists: Who we are and what we do &lt;br&gt;Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Community psychologists continued</td>
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<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Labor Day: No Classes</td>
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<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>The importance of values &lt;br&gt;Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Values continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Beyond the individual level &lt;br&gt;Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Beyond individual continued &lt;br&gt;1st Thought paper due</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Beyond individual continued &lt;br&gt;Activity: Ecological analysis of a setting; exam review</td>
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<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>1st Exam (Chapters 1-4)</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Appreciating diversity &lt;br&gt;Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Diversity continued &lt;br&gt;Film/in-class discussion: Displaced in the</td>
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New South

Oct. 4 Embracing social change
Oct. 6 Social change continued
Oct. 11 Strengths perspective
Oct. 13 Guest Lecture by Dr. Julia Perilla
Oct. 14 Semester Midpoint - Last day to withdraw with a possible “W”
Oct. 18 Strengths perspective continued
Oct. 20 Stress and coping
Oct. 25 Stress and coping continued
Oct. 27 2nd Exam (Chapters 5-8)
Nov. 1 Prevention
Nov. 3 Prevention continued
Nov. 8 Prevention continued
Nov. 10 Empowerment
Nov. 15 Empowerment
Nov. 17 Empowerment continued
Nov. 22-26 Thanksgiving Holidays: No Classes
Nov. 29 Resilience
Dec. 1 Resilience continued
Dec. 6 Community psychology in the 21st century
Dec. 8 21st century continued
Dec. 9 NO CLASS
Dec. 13 3rd Exam (Chapters 9-12) 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Dec. 13 Project Part 4 due by 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS
Below is a list of some of the major journals related to the field of community psychology (You may also use other sources):

American Journal of Community Psychology
Journal of Applied and Preventive Psychology
Journal of Community Psychology
Journal of Primary Prevention
Health Education & Behavior

Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community
Prevention Science
Journal of Rural Community Psychology (electronic)
Community Practitioner (electronic)

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY
Make-up exams will be offered in extremely limited circumstances. The instructor has the discretion to accept or refuse requests for make-up exams. Explanations for missed examinations will need to be well documented.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS
With the exception of exams and in-class essays, all assignments must be uploaded to VISTA. Assignments will be considered late if they are posted after 5:00 p.m. on the due date. VISTA will accept assignments for up to 2 days after the due date; after that time, you must turn in a hard copy together with documentation explaining the reason for lateness (e.g., a typed note of explanation from you, a doctor's note, etc.). Late assignments will incur a 15% penalty per day (A 20 point assignment turned in 1 day late can receive a maximum of 17 points). Papers more than 2 days late will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion.
DEPARTMENTAL POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY
The Department of Psychology follows the University system policy on academic honesty, which is published in the Faculty Affairs Handbook and in On Campus: The Undergraduate Co-Curricular Affairs Handbook and is available to all members of the university community. The policy represents a core value of the university and all members of the university community are responsible for abiding by its tenets. Lack of knowledge of this policy is not an acceptable defense to any charge of academic dishonesty. All members of the academic community—students, faculty, and staff—are expected to report violations of these standards of academic conduct to the appropriate authorities. The minimal penalty for cheating in this class is the grade of F.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR
Students who exhibit behaviors, which are considered to obstruct or disrupt this class or its learning activities, will be considered under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which are considered to be inappropriate in this classroom include but are not limited to the following: sleeping, eating, coming in late, leaving early, interrupting others, talking out of turn, inappropriate behavior during group work, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the instructor. The instructor will give students who exhibit such behavior a verbal warning. Continued violations will result in (1) a written warning, (2) in a meeting with the chair of the Department of Psychology, and (3) then will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

ALL CELLULAR TELEPHONES, PAGERS, AND BEEPERS MUST BE TURNED OFF, UNLESS THE DEVICE IS ON "VIBRATE" MODE. If a cellular phone rings or a beeper/pager goes off during an exam (and is not in vibrate mode), the student will automatically receive ten points off of their exam. If you receive a phone call/page (in vibrate mode) that is essential for you to respond to immediately, discreetly leave the classroom. If your phone does not have “vibrate” mode and you are expecting an emergency phone call, please notify the instructor at the beginning of class.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS
GSU Psychology Clinic: 404-651-2859 (10th floor Urban Life)
GSU Counseling Center: 404-651-2211 (106 Courtland Street)
GSU Psychology Undergraduate Advisement Office 404-651-2283 (11th floor Urban Life)

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.