

Code and title	PY215 Community Psychology
Tutors(s)	Peter Forster
Brief description	<p>This module will provide an introduction to the field of community psychology. Community psychology is concerned with the three-way interaction between society, individual and community. Community psychology focuses on social issues, social institutions, and other settings that influence individuals, groups, and organisations. Community psychology as a science seeks to understand the relationships between environmental conditions and the development of the health and well-being of all members of a community. The practice of community psychology is directed towards facilitating psychological competence and empowerment, preventing problems, and promoting social change and community health. The goal is to optimise the health and well-being of individuals and communities with interventions designed in collaboration with affected community members and with related disciplines inside and outside psychology.</p>
Level and credit value	Level II, 15 CAT points
Status	Acceptable for PY
Type	Standard
Prerequisites	PY101 or PY108 or SO101 or EL101
Recommended prior study	N/A
Restrictions	N/A
Availability	N/A
Context	N/A
Content summary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is community psychology? 2. Research methods used in community psychology 3. Social change 4. Psychological Sense of Community 5. Virtual and other non-traditional communities 6. Community health psychology 7. Preventive medicine 8. Specific groups including children, adolescents, the elderly, the homeless 9. Crime and communities

	<p>10. Community organisational psychology 11. Community development 12. Evaluation of Community Psychology Programmes</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding By the end of the module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Critically evaluate the methods and values of community psychology. b Assess the effects of social, cultural, and environmental factors on individual and community well-being to enable critical commentary on the usefulness of these levels of explanation. c Demonstrate a critical understanding of innovative programmes and practices geared towards community empowerment that could be applied to a real community problem. d Evaluate the relationship between people and their environment, and critically assess the ways that changing this relationship may lead to improvements. e Fully understand the various roles that community psychologists perform. <p>Skills By the end of the module students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Analyse community problems and devise possible preventive measures. b Develop alternatives to individually oriented services. c Apply their learning to either a case study or a specific social problem that they identify in their community.
Teaching and learning	<p>Staff/student contact 16% Student private study 84% Methods include lectures, group discussion and videos.</p>
Assessment	<p>Essay (2000 words) 50% Report on a community project (2000 words) 50%</p>
Indicative resources	<p>Dalton J. H., Elias, M. J. & Wandersman, A.</p>

(2001). Community Psychology: Linking Individuals and Communities. Stamford: Wadsworth.

Doyle, E. & Ward, S. (2001). The Process of Community Health Education and Promotion. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Duffy, K. G. & Wong, F. Y. (2000). Community Psychology. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Levine, M. & Perkins, D. V. (1997). Principles of community psychology: Perspectives and applications (2nd edition). New York: Oxford University Press.

Orford, J. (1992). Community Psychology: Theory and Practice. Wiley.

Rappaport, J. (1977). Community psychology: Values, research and action. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

Sarason, S. (1974). A Psychological Sense of Community. San Fransisco: Jossey Bass.

Web sites:

Journal of Rural Community Health Psychology

<http://www.marshall.edu/jrcp//index.html>

Community Psychology Net

<http://www.communitypsychology.net/>

Association for the Study and Development of Community

<http://www.capablecommunity.com/>

Community Psychology UK

<http://www.compsy.org.uk/>

The Virtual Community

<http://www.rheingold.com/vc/book/>