

Psychology 270: Community Psychology

Spring 2005

Professor: Rebecca Campbell, Ph.D.

Assigned Readings: Community Psychology: Linking Individuals and Communities (2001) by James Dalton, Maurice Elias, & Abraham Wandersman, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning Publishers.

There Are No Children Here (1991) by Alex Kotlowitz, New York: Doubleday Publishers.

Recommended

Reading: On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of “Straight” Black Men who Sleep with Men (2004) by J.L. King, New York: Broadway Books.

Course Overview:

This class will provide students with an introduction to the field of community psychology. This area of psychology is concerned with the scientific study of social problems and their solutions. My goals for this class are to help students understand community-based research and to encourage them to think about how research findings can be used to address social problems.

Course Management Software:

This course will be using Angel for on-line course management and communication. You can access Angel by going to <https://angel.msu.edu>. You will be asked to enter your MSU log in and password. Look under the “My Courses” section in Psychology 270 for announcements and materials related to this course. If you have any trouble using Angel, you can contact the helpdesk at (517) 355-2345 or 1-800-500-1554 Monday-Friday 8am-10pm, Saturday 11am-6pm, and Sunday noon-10pm EST. If you are unfamiliar with Angel, please complete the on-line tutorial: from the Angel page, click on Angel help guide → Angel on-line training.

Course Procedures:

Even though we will be using Angel for course management and communication, I will NOT be posting my lecture notes on Angel or other web sources, SO YOU NEED TO ATTEND CLASS. I know many students are used to being able to go to Angel and download PowerPoint slides to follow along in class (or as a substitute for going to class). To learn the concepts of Community Psychology, I don't think the “click, click, click” of PowerPoint is useful because it won't help you absorb the material. To learn this information, you have to pay attention and be engaged and one of the best ways to do that is to write—not read and follow along, but write and practice. The way I teach Community Psychology is low-tech—I use an overhead projector and a pen. I write and you write along with me. However, I have noticed that some students write down only what I write

down on the overheads. **THIS IS A MISTAKE!!!** There will be many important examples and explanations that you should also write down in your notes.

You should do the assigned readings **BEFORE** you come to lecture. I guarantee that you will get a lot more out of class if you put this effort in up-front. Class participation is vital to this course, and will count toward your grade (see below). It is essential that you do the readings prior to class to be able to contribute to the discussions.

I have selected eight interesting films to supplement the course lectures. The information in these videos will be included in the exams. It is **VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND CLASS ON VIDEO DATES**. These movies are hard-to-find documentaries that you can't get at video rental stores. The videos **CANNOT** be made available to students who miss class on film days.

Assignments:

- (1) Critical Analysis Papers. You will be required to write **TWO** papers in this class, each 5-7 pages long. In these papers you will be asked to think and reflect about topics discussed in class and in the readings. A handout summarizing these assignments (required paper topics, format guidelines, due dates, etc.) will be distributed in class near the beginning of the semester. You must follow the guidelines for this assignment; failure to do so will result in a grade of zero. **NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ONE WEEK PAST ITS DUE DATE.**
- (2) Exams. **THREE** multiple choice exams will be given in this class (see schedule at the end of the syllabus for dates). Each exam will cover lecture material and reading assignments since the last exam (i.e., the exams are **NOT** cumulative). At the beginning of the semester, I will distribute a handout of test-taking tips and strategies. I highly recommend that you follow these recommendations as they can be very effective in improving your test-taking skills.
- (3) Class Participation. Yes, this is a big class, but, yes, you are expected to talk. Class participation is vital—we will be covering many interesting and controversial topics in this course, and I want to know what you think. After I lecture on the basic concepts for a unit, I will often open up the class for discussion and debate.

The grading of class participation is pretty simple: if you participate at least three times throughout the semester, you will receive full credit (10 points each time, up to 30 points total). To help us maintain accurate records, you need to fill out and turn in a "Talking Coupon" (which lists your name, date of your participation, and the topic of that day's class discussion).

TURN IN YOUR TALKING COUPON TO THE TAs BEFORE YOU LEAVE CLASS. NO LATE TALKING COUPONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

I expect to hear from each and every member of the class, and will be careful when calling on people to get to the "new talkers" first. Do not be worried about saying something that you think I might disagree with. That is the whole point of college: intellectual exchange and debate. Make your comments polite, constructive, and frequent.

Grading:

The final grades for this class will be determined by the number of points earned on the papers, exams, and class participation.

Critical Analysis Papers

Paper 1	Due Date: Tuesday 2/22	50 points
Paper 2	Due Date: Thursday 4/7	50 points

Exams

Exam 1	Date: Tuesday 2/15	40 points
Exam 2	Date: Thursday 3/24	40 points
Exam 3	Date: Thursday 4/28	40 points

Class Participation	30 points
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TOTAL	250 points
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The final grades will be based on a percentage of total points earned:

90% of 250 points	225 points and above →	4.0
85% of 250 points	213 points to 224 points →	3.5
80% of 250 points	200 points to 212 points →	3.0
75% of 250 points	188 points to 199 points →	2.5
70% of 250 points	175 points to 187 points →	2.0
65% of 250 points	163 points to 174 points →	1.5
60% of 250 points	150 points to 162 points →	1.0
less than 60% of 250 points	less than 150 points →	0.0

Other Important Reminders:

- (1) **Academic Honesty.** Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Department of Psychology adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See *Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide* (<http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm>)). Therefore, you are expected to complete all course assignments without assistance from any source. You are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com web site to complete any course work in Psychology 270. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

- (2) Accommodations for Disabilities. Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY).
- (3) Drops and Adds. The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is 2/4/2005. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is 3/2/2005.
- (4) Observing a Major Religious Holiday. You may make up course work missed to observe a major religious holiday only if you make arrangements in advance with the professor.
- (5) Participation in a Required Activity. To make up course work missed to participate in a required activity for another course or a university-sanctioned event, you must provide the professor with adequate advanced notice and a written authorization from the faculty member of the other course or from a university administrator.
- (6) Commercialized Lecture Notes. Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

Course Schedule
(subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Tu 1/11	Course Introduction	
	Th 1/13	Introduction to Community Psychology History of Community Psychology	Dalton: Chapters 1 & 2 Kotlowitz: Preface thru Chapter 6
2	Tu 1/18	Community Psychology Research	Dalton: Chapters 3 & 4 Kotlowitz: Chapters 7 thru 12
	Th 1/20	VIDEO: "The Deadly Deception"	Kotlowitz: Chapters 13 thru 19
3	Tu 1/25	Understanding Oppression & Diversity	Dalton: Chapter 6 Kotlowitz: Chapters 20 thru 25
	Th 1/27	Understanding Oppression & Diversity Blaming the Victim	Kotlowitz: Chapter 26 thru Epilogue
4	Tu 2/1	Blaming the Victim DISCUSSION: "There Are No Children Here"	
	Th 2/3	Ecological Theory	Dalton: Chapter 5
5	Tu 2/8	VIDEO: "Voices of Cabrini"	
	Th 2/10	Ecological Theory Wrap-Up for Exam 1	
6	Tu 2/15	EXAM 1	
	Th 2/17	Stress, Coping, and Social Support	Dalton: Chapter 8
7	Tu 2/22	VIDEO: "Surviving the Good Times" PAPER 1 DUE IN CLASS	
	Th 2/24	Stress, Coping, and Social Support Prevention	Dalton: Chapter 9
8	Tu 3/1	Prevention	Dalton: Chapter 10
	Th 3/3	VIDEO: "An Ounce of Prevention"	[King: Introduction thru Chapter 5]
9	SPRING BREAK!!		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
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10	Tu 3/15	Developing Prevention Programs	Dalton: Chapter 11 [King: Chapters 6 thru 12]
	Th 3/17	VIDEO: “The Lost Children of Rockdale”	[King: Chapters 13 thru 18]
11	Tu 3/22	DISCUSSION: “On the Down Low” Wrap-Up for Exam 2	
	Th 3/24	EXAM 2	
12	Tu 3/29	Psychological Sense of Community	Dalton: Chapter 7
	Th 3/21	Empowerment	Dalton: Chapter 12
13	Tu 4/5	VIDEO: “Defending Our Lives”	
	Th 4/7	Empowerment PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS	
14	Tu 4/12	VIDEO: “Love Canal”	
	Th 4/14	VIDEO: “Love Canal” (continued)	
15	Tu 4/19	Community Organizing	Dalton: Chapter 13
	Th 4/21	VIDEO: “School of Assassins”	
16	Tu 4/26	Community Organizing Wrap-up for Exam 3	
	Th 4/28	EXAM 3	