

The School of Social Service Administration
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Theories and Strategies of Community Change
SSA 483
Fall 2004

Thursday 1:30-4:20 p.m.

Instructor: Virginia Parks, Ph.D.
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This course examines theories and strategies of organizing communities for the purpose of achieving social change. The course considers approaches, concepts, and definitions of community and the roles of community organizations and organizing efforts, especially those in diverse, low-income urban communities. A primary course objective is to explore how social problems and their community solutions are framed, the theoretical bases of these solutions, and the implementation strategies through which they play out in practice. Topics include resident participation, community-based planning, community development, organizing in and among diverse communities, coalition building, and policy implications of different approaches to community action. The course includes both historic and current examples of community action practice in Chicago and nationally. Throughout, the course emphasizes political and economic events that shape, constrain, and enable community action and organization.

Required Readings

1. Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens (eds.), *Urban Problems and Community Development*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. Available at the **Seminary Co-op Bookstore** (University Ave. at 58th St.).
2. SSA 483 photocopy packet available in the **SSA Production Room**.
3. I **have not** included readings available on-line in the photocopy packet. I have provided appropriate URL's or links to these readings on the course schedule. You will need to download and print them from the web.

Suggested readings are not required but may be of interest for further research or for your papers. Required readings under each week form the basis of that week's discussion.

Course Requirements

Class participation	10% of final grade
Response to readings	20% of final grade
Census exercise	20% of final grade
Final Paper	50% of final grade

Class Participation:

This course is the introductory core course in SSA's community cluster. Its purpose is to provide you with a foundation of knowledge upon which later community courses build. As such, it is not meant as a practice course, but as an opportunity to explore and develop ideas and concepts that can (and hopefully will) inform your future practice. Thus, the course is structured as a readings and discussion seminar. Please approach this course as an opportunity to engage with both the readings and your colleagues in a focused setting that we rarely encounter during our professional careers. To make best use of such an opportunity, the seminar's success depends upon the active, informed participation of all seminar members. Absences will impact your class participation grade. You must attend at least seven class sessions between weeks 2 and 10 to pass the class.

Response to readings:

For each week's required readings, I will write a question that addresses the main themes and issues presented in the readings. I will assign you to one week's question to which you will write a 3-page response, due that week in class (e.g., if I assign you to week 2's question, your response is due in class week 2).

Census exercise: This assignment will be distributed week 5 during the census lab. Basically, you will be required to access, manipulate, and critically assess community-level data in relation to questions of community action.

Final paper: Due Thursday, 12/9 at 5:00 p.m.

In a 10-12 page paper, critically assess a community initiative of your choosing (Chicago-based initiatives tend to work best for this assignment). Please address, but do not limit yourself, to the following questions:

1. What social problem does the initiative seek to address?
2. How does the initiative (or proponents of the initiative) frame the problem?
3. What is the initiative's proposed solution to the problem?
4. Does the proposed solution address the problem? (For example, think about how Defillipis constructs his critique of social capital in community development.)
5. What is the initiative's strategy to realize this solution?
6. Is the pursued strategy appropriate to the initiative's stated goals?
7. What challenges confront the initiative?
8. What are possible correctives to the weaknesses you may have identified with this initiative?

Papers should be double-spaced with 12-point font and are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized. No exceptions.

SSA 483 Course Schedule

Week 1 (9/30): Introduction—What is community action?

Week 2 (10/7): Surveying the community landscape

Rothman, Jack (1995). "Approaches to Community Intervention." In Jack Rothman, John L. Ehrlich and John E. Tropman (Eds.), *Strategies of Community Intervention* (6th ed.). Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock.

Ferguson, Ronald F., and Sara E. Stoutland (1999). "Reconceiving the Community Development Field." Pp. 1-32 in Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens (eds.), *Urban Problems and Community Development*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

O'Connor, Alice. 1999. "Swimming Against the Tide: A Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities." Pp. 77-137 in *Urban Problems and Community Development*, edited by Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens. Washington, D. C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Nicholas Lehmann "The Myth of Community Development" in Hird, John A., and Michael Reese (Eds.). 1999. *Controversies in American Public Policy*. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Info about current HUD community development initiatives:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/rc/index.cfm>

Week 3 (10/14): Theoretical Perspectives on Community and Development

Raymond Williams, "Community" in *Keywords*.

"What is Human Development?" UN Human Development website:
<http://hdr.undp.org/hd/default.cfm>

Sampson, Robert. 1999. "What 'Community' Supplies." Pp. 241-292 in *Urban Problems and Community Development*, edited by Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens. Washington, D. C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Portes, Alejandro. 1998. "Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 1-24.
Available on-line at: <http://soc.AnnualReviews.org/>

Young, Iris Marion. 1990. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
Chpt. 8: "City Life and Difference"

Recommended:

Delgado, Gary. 1994. *Beyond the Politics of Place: New Directions in Community Organizing in the 1990s*. Oakland, CA: Applied Research Center.
"Organizing in Communities of Color" pp. 45-64.

United Nations Human Development Report 2001
Chpt. 1: Human Development - past, present and future
On-line: <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2001/en/>

Chaskin, Robert. 1997. "Perspectives on Neighborhood and Community." *Social Service Review*, 71(4): 521-547.

On-line: Look up journal in U of C library catalog; follow "electronic resource" link

Week 4 (10/21): Situating Communities within the Political Economy

Bluestone, Barry, and Bennett Harrison. 1982. *The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closings, Community Abandonment, and the Dismantling of Basic Industry*. New York: Basic Books.
Chpt. 1 "Capital and Community"

Sassen, Saskia. 1998. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: The New Press.
Chpt. 7: "Service Employment Regimes and the New Inequality"

Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid*.
Chpt. 2: "The Construction of the Ghetto"

Sites, William. 2003. *Remaking New York: Primitive Globalization and the Politics of Urban Community*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press).
"Introduction"

Week 5 (10/28):

A. Framing Social Problems and "Community" Solutions

"Power and Ideology" Grassroots Policy Project.

<http://www.grassrootspolicy.org>

Find reading under "Publications" link

Loic J. D. Waquant. 1995. "The Comparative Structure and Experience of Urban Exclusion: 'Race,' Class, and Space in Chicago and Paris" in *Poverty, Inequality and the Future of Social Policy*. New York: Russell Sage, pp. 543-570.

DeFilippis, James. 2001. "The Myth of Social Capital in Community Development." *Housing Policy Debate* 12:781-806.

On-line: www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/HPD_1204_defilippis.pdf

Recommended:

Jargowsky, Paul. 1997. *Poverty and Place*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Chpt. 7: "Chaos or Community? Directions for Public Policy"

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swamstrom. 2001. *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-first Century*. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press.

Chpt. 7: "Metropolicies for the Twenty-first Century"

B. Introduction to community data

Selection from: D. Myers. 1992. *Analysis with Local Census Data*.

Week 6 (11/4): Strategies—Local Economic Development

Robert Halpern. 1995. *Rebuilding the Inner City: A History of Neighborhood Initiatives to Address Poverty in the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press.
"Community Economic Development"

Wim Wiwel, Michael Teitz, and Robert Giloth. 1993. "The Economic Development of Neighborhoods and Localities" in *Theories of Local Economic Development*, ed. Richard D. Bingham and Robert Mier.

Selection from: R. Giloth, ed. 1998. *Jobs and Economic Development: Strategies and Practice*.

Michael E. Porter. 1995. "Competitive Advantage of the Inner city," *Harvard Business Review* 73(3): 55-71.

Available on-line; search U of C library catalog for "Harvard Business Review"; select "electronic resource"; follow appropriate links

Recommended:

Randy Stoeker (1997). "The CDC Model of Urban Redevelopment" *Journal of Urban Affairs* 19(1):1-22.

Available on-line; search U of C library catalog for "Journal of Urban Affairs"; select "electronic resource"; follow appropriate links

Week 7 (11/11): Strategies—Grassroots Mobilization

Guest speaker from Jobs with Justice

"Power and Organizing" Grassroots Policy Project.
<http://www.grassrootspolicy.org/power.htm>

"Strategy for Social Change" Grassroots Policy Project.
<http://www.grassrootspolicy.org/strategy.htm>

Alinsky, Saul. 1941. "Community Analysis and Organization." *American Journal of Sociology* 46:797-808.

Available on-line at www.jstor.org

Ganz, Marshall. 2000. "The Paradox of Powerlessness: Leadership, Organization, and Strategy in the Unionization of California Agriculture." *American Journal of Sociology* 105:1003-1062.

Available on-line; search U of C library catalog for "American Journal of Sociology"; select "electronic resource"; follow appropriate links

Cloward, Richard A., and Francis Fox Piven. 1999. "Disruptive Dissensus: People and Power in the Industrial Age." Pp. 165-193 in *Reflections on Community Organization: Enduring Themes and Critical Issues*, edited by Jack Rothman. Itasca, IL: F. E. Peacock Publishers, Inc.

Delgado, Gary. 1986. *Organizing the Movement*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
Chpt. 4 "The ACORN Model"

Metropolitan Alliance/AGENDA *Organizers' Training Manual*
(I will provide materials from this manual.)

Review following websites: www.acorn.org
 www.ctwo.org
 www.n2nma.org
 www.cbecal.org

www.midwestacademy.com

Recommended:

Warren, Mark R. 1998. "Community Building and Political Power," *American Behavioral Scientist*, 42(1):78-93—available at www.jstor.org

Beck, Elizabeth L. and Michael Eichner. 2000. "Consensus Organizing: A Practice Model for Community Building," *Journal of Community Practice* 8(1): 87-102.

Alinsky, Saul D. 1971. *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals*. New York: Random House.

"Tactics," pp. 126-164

Week 8 (11/18): Immigrants and Community Mobilization in an Era of Globalization

Portes, Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 1996. *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Chpt. 2: "Patterns of Immigrant Settlement and Spatial Mobility"

Portes, Alejandro. 1996. "Global Villagers: The Rise of Transnational Communities" *American Prospect* 7(25).

On-line: <http://www.prospect.org/print/V7/25/portes-a.html>

Bosniak, Laura. 2000. "Universal Citizenship and the Problem of Alienage." *Northwestern University Law Review* 94:963-982.

On-line: <http://heinonline.org> (browse journal collection)

Applied Research Center. 2002. *Mapping the Immigrant Infrastructure*. Oakland, CA: Applied Research Center

On reserve in SSA library.

Recommended:

Expinosa, Victor. 1999. "The Federation of Michoacan Clubs in Illinois. The Chicago-Michoacan Project Report." Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights and the Chicago Community Trust, Chicago.

Week 9 (11/25): THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 10 (12/2): Community and Labor Initiatives

Guest Speaker from National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

Needleman, Ruth. 1998. "Building Relationships for the Long Haul: Unions and Community-Based Groups Working Together to Organize Low-Wage Workers." Pp. 71-86 in *Organizing to Win*, edited by Kate Bronfenbrenner et al. Ithaca, NY: ILR Press.

Peters, Ronald and Theresa Merrill. 1998. "Clergy and Religious Persons' Roles in Organizing at O'Hare Airport and St. Joseph Medical Center." Pp. 164-177 in *Organizing to Win*, edited by Kate Bronfenbrenner et al. Ithaca, NY: ILR Press.

Merrifield, Andy. 2000. "The Urbanization of Labor: Living-Wage Activism in the American City." *Social Text* 18:31-54.

On-line: <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/soc/toc/soc18.1.html>

Wylie-Kellermann, Bill. 1998. "The Power of Alliance: Why the Church and the Labor Movement Belong Together." *Sojourners* (September-October).

On-line: www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=magazine.back_issues

find link for September-October 1998 issue.

See following websites: www.jwj.org
www.nicwj.org
www.afl-cio.org

Recommended:

Addams, Jane. 1910. *Twenty Years at Hull House*. New York: The Macmillan Company.
Chpt. 10: "Pioneer Labor Legislation in Illinois"

Phelps, Constance. 2001. "Social Work and Labor: A Look at the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation" *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 28(1): 23-41.