PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
TOULAN SCHOOL OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING

CONCEPTS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
USP528 – FALL 2011
Tuesdays 1-3:40 p.m.
220 Urban Center

Professor Karen J. Gibson
Room 370J, Urban Center
Phone: 725-8265

Email: gibsonk@pdx.edu
Office Hrs: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Broadly defined, community development implies a set of activities and processes designed to improve the quality of life in a neighborhood, city, or region. It often refers to strategies which attempt to respond to the conditions found in disinvested neighborhoods: high levels of unemployment and working poverty; a shortage of decent, affordable housing; limited access to commercial and retail services; inadequate public services such as transportation and parks; and limited access to capital. In this course we will explore the origins and context of community development, concepts and strategies employed in practice, and current issues and debates in the field. Topics covered include community disinvestment and reinvestment, urban policy, affordable housing, community organizing, accountable development, and environmental justice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To enable the student to:

a. become familiar with the origins and context of neighborhood-based community development

b. understand the basic concepts, goals, and ideas undergirding community development

c. become familiar with organizational and policy framework of community development practice

d. become familiar with the current challenges and debates in the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course consists of readings, lecture, discussion, films, and field-based research. Please come to class prepared to discuss the reading materials. There will be a take-home essay examination in the fifth week of class. You will also conduct field-based research on a topic relevant to community development theory and/or practice. You must submit a well-developed paper proposal by the fourth week of class and present your research findings at the end of the term. Please communicate with me if you anticipate a problem with an assignment. All work must be submitted on paper.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Composition:</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Dates:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Paper Proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>October 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Paper Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>November 29 &amp; December 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>December 9, 5:00 pm</td>
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REQUIRED BOOKS AND READINGS


The books are at the PSU Bookstore and on reserve. Other readings are available through the library, websites, or via email (readings with asterisk will be sent from me).

ASSIGNMENTS

Take-home Midterm and Final Exams:
The exams consists of essay questions that require you to analyze and critique the evidence and perspectives presented in the readings. You must write original essays that demonstrate a synthetic understanding of the material and your own reflective thoughts. The essays will be evaluated based upon your grasp of the material, composition and clarity, and level of effort.

Field Paper:
This paper allows you to conduct field research on community development in the Portland region. Field research implies that you will collect data from “the field” (a local area), through observation at meetings, interviews of key informants, and analysis of reports, newspapers, etc. Your field research MUST be informed by the relevant theoretical and/or empirical literature on the topic. You are free to select a concept, issue, organization, public agency, policy, or planning process that is related to community development in the Portland region. It is best to communicate with me about your topic before finalizing your proposal.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1 - September 27
INTRODUCTION
Film: Building Hope (Produced by the Pratt Institute, New York, 1994)
Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, Community Development Corporation Oral History Project. [http://prattcenter.net/cdc-oral-history-project](http://prattcenter.net/cdc-oral-history-project)

Week 2 - October 4
COMMUNITY DISINVESTMENT PROCESSES


Streets of Hope, Introduction and Chapter 1.
Week 3 – October 11
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE
Asset Building and Community Development. Chapters 1-3, 5, 9.

Streets of Hope, Chapters 2-3.

Week 4 – October 18
AFFORDABLE HOUSING I


Week 5 – October 25
AFFORDABLE HOUSING II


Asset Building and Community Development. Chapter 8.


Week 6 – November 1
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION
http://www.nhi.org/research/521/managing_neighborhood_change/


Streets of Hope, Chapters 4-6.

Week 7 - November 8
THE ACCOUNTABLE DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT

Streets of Hope, Chapter 7.

Asset Building and Community Development, Chapter 11.


Optional Reading:

Week 8 - November 15
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY


Asset Building and Community Development, Chapters 10, 13-14.

Week 9 - November 22
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING I


*Streets of Hope*, Chapters 8-9.

*Asset Building and Community Development*, Chapter 15.

**Week 10 – November 29**
Field paper presentations

**Week 11 – December 8 (Thursday 10:15-12:05)**
Field paper presentations