MC498: Senior Seminar
James Madison College
Michigan State University

Tuesday Thursday 3-4:50
N. Case 369L Seminar Room

Syllabus version 10-5-2015

MC498-002: Civic Engagement and Community Development in Lansing

This course will examine the history and application of community development strategies. Lansing will serve as our empirical community laboratory. We look at local political economies, including community organizing, non-profit organization, local governance, constituency development and local democracy. We explore the concepts of social capital and civic culture. How do we explain why neighborhoods within cities vary in social and economic stability and in economic performance? The extent to which a neighborhood exercises self-governance (i.e., the capacity to develop rules, norms and other institutions of governance) helps to explain its stability and economic performance relative to other neighborhoods. In particular, neighborhoods with more advanced neighborhood-level political institutions and with greater degrees of social capital provide property owners with greater confidence in the neighborhood’s long term economic health than in neighborhoods with more poorly-developed self-governance. We hope to evaluate this explanation with data analysis from an on-going research project on Lansing’s neighborhoods and city governance institutions. Students will use primary data from Lansing neighborhoods.

As a senior seminar, this course will depend on a cooperative and interactive learning environment where all participants are responsible for attendance, readings, and presentations. Our first task is to become familiar with key definitions and concepts used in dialogue with various disciplines concerning community development and civic engagement. We will study the interaction of social agency, ideology, opportunity structures, conflict, domination, normative order, political economies, cultures, and social movements in creating and sustaining “community” within the wider environment of neighborhood, municipal, and regional conflict and inequality. This course hopes to chart some of the forces which are challenging and shaping community opportunities and the possible responses to expanding them. What tools are available for empowering local citizens in their own communities? Participants will demonstrate their facility with these analytical tools in a presentation of original research on a topic of their choice.

Required Texts available for purchase: All texts are on reserve at the MSU main library.


Temple Univ. Press. HD 8039.A82 U6437 2004

Library Resource guide for this course: http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/mc498-Lansing

Additional Required Texts are available as online links, in D2L, or as a hard copy on reserve in the JMC library. See course schedule of readings below.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

1) **Attendance and Class Participation** will require your first and foremost effort. Seminar participants are expected to attend every class, with allowance for 2 formally excused absences. **More than 2 absences will result in loss of .5 of final grade point.** If you must miss a class, you must see me. Everyone is responsible for reading the assignment on the assigned day and being prepared to engage in discussion. Participation will be enhanced through position papers.

2) **Seminar participants will submit 1 discussion question per class date,** based upon the readings, to the presenter, who will compile them for all participants. **You are also responsible for ten 2-3 page position papers** over the course of the class that summarize the issues discussed that week, due on the following Monday meeting. You should explore a question of your own choosing derived from readings and discussion and present your own understanding of that issue. **These will be turned in for a grade and are worth 50% of the final grade.**

3) Each seminar participant will take on the role of Discussion Leader for one week. You will prepare a discussion question handout for all seminar participants and lead the discussion. The presenter will give a 15 minute presentation on the readings, including summarizing, analyzing, criticizing and expanding the issues presented in the reading from an engaged and personal perspective. Presenters will meet with Professor Jezierski the week before to discuss the presentation. This is **worth 10% of your final grade.**

4) **An original research paper** will be based upon either an empirical analysis of primary data or theoretical investigation, and should be 20-25 pages in length, will be **due Wed Dec 16 by noon.**

4.1 **Library Research Lab provided by Julia Frankosky on Thurs Oct 1 during class time.** Meet in the main library at Basement Instruction Room at the Main Library. This lab will allow you to learn how to access primary data from US Census and other sources. A library course guide to support these data skills will be available on the MSU Libraries Course Guide link: [http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/mc498-Lansing](http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/mc498-Lansing)

4.2 **Proposal (5 pages, double spaced, 5 references) due on Tues Oct 13 in class and by 6:00 pm in D2L dropbox.** You need to see me in office hours during prior weeks to finalize your topic. The proposal is not graded but I will provide written feedback.

4.3 **Annotated Bibliography due Friday Oct 30th by 4 pm or Monday Nov 2 by noon.** It will include a one page sum for each of your 15 sources. Sum the argument and state how this text helps to develop your thesis. This will be graded and is **worth 10% of your final grade.** You will turn in both a hard copy to me and an electronic version to the D2L dropbox.

4.4 **First draft with electronic abstract and bibliography due by Tuesday Nov 24 by 5:00 pm.** Everyone will post their abstract and bibliography on D2L after approval. I won’t grade this, but will provide written feedback so you can rewrite.

4.5 **In Class Powerpoint Presentation of your paper: this will be graded and is worth 5%.** Presentation dates are December 1, 3, 8, 10, 14. You will sign up for one of these dates. A separate handout on presentation evaluations is posted on D2L. You will also post powerpoints in D2L dropbox.

4.6 **The final paper is due worth 25% of your final grade and is due on Wed Dec 16 by noon** in my mailbox and in the D2L dropbox.

**Celebrate the end of semester at Professor Jezierski’s House (Brunch Sunday Dec 6 10:30? ).**
SCHEDULE OF READINGS FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

WEEK 1) INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

TH Sept 3: NO Class. Do Complete IRB tutorial web-based Overview.

http://hrpp.msu.edu/faq-what-are-course-registration-instructions-when-msu-irb-training-modules-are-used-part-learning-a

https://train.ora.msu.edu/Saba/Web/Main

Reading: McClelland Nothing but Blue Skies: Prologue, Chaps 1, 2, 10, 16
D2L pp. 1-30; 188-203; 306-326
Stoecker: Chapters 1-2 pp. 1-46

WEEK 2) INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE and TO LANSING

TU Sept 8 Introductions, and group discussion of Stoecker chaps 1-2 and projects

TH Sept 10: Defining Community Capacity


Introduction to Asset-Based Community Development ABCD http://www.abcdinstitute.org/

Pre Research: 1: Studying the Community & 2: Building Relationships in the Community

WEEK 3) Building Research Relationships in a Community Development Context: Lansing

TU Sept 15 Meet with Tina Houghton, Lansing City Council President
http://www.lansingmi.gov/Council_Members

and Andi Crawford City of Lansing Neighborhood Resource Coordinator
http://www.lansingmi.gov/Lansing_Neighborhood_Associati

We initiate the exploration of Community projects
Address the Questions: What does Participatory Action Research look like?
What is a valuable partnership?
Read: Stoecker Chaps 3-4 pp. 47-101

TH Sept 17 Lansing Neighborhood Project: Professors Jezierski and Mike Craw
Readings and materials on D2L
WEEK 4: Researching Lansing’s History

https://nextdoor.com/events/calendar/mi/lansing/

Monday Sept. 21: Follow up discussion of projects: Meet with Ms. Crawford and Ms Houghton in the JMC Library from noon -1:00

TU Sept 22: Reo Joe

Discuss Fine, Reo Joe: Introduction through Chap 3 (pp.1-93) and McClelland’s depiction of Lansing


TH Sept 24: Reo Joe

Discuss Fine, Reo Joe: Chaps 4-6 and Epilogue (pp.94-186)

Field trip: ReoTown Depot, with Prof. Lisa Fine, dinner at Saddleback BBQ after class.

WEEK 5) Accessing Research Tools and Methods

TU Sept 29: Mixed Methods and Multi-Level Community Research


and his book, Great American City: Chicago & the Enduring Neighborhood Effect.

Before class, watch Sampson’s presentation (85 minutes) at USC at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEXSOUqwztA

And Read: Sampson: Chaps 3-4 on D2L

4.1 Library Research Lab provided by Julia Frankosky on Thursday Oct 1 during class time

TH Oct 1: Library Resources Presentation with MSU librarian Julia Frankosky

Meet for class at the MSU Main Library Basement Instruction Room http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/mc498-Lansing
WEEK 6)  PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

TU Oct 6:  Stoecker chaps 5-7 pp, 103-187

Also review chapters from Silverman and Patterson, on course reserve Qualitative Research Methods for Community Development

Also read Our Kids, Silva and Putnam: Stories of Our Kids, pp. 263-277

TH Oct 8:  workshop and presentation of proposals: Turn in Causal Statement Lab

WEEK 7)  Community Case Study and Applied Community Organization

TU Oct 13:  **4.2 Proposal** (5 pages, ds, and 5 sources referenced) due **today** in class

Film: The Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky and his Legacy (57 minutes)
Bob Hercules and Bruce Orenstein (Producers and Directors) 2000 Indieflix.com

Visit the website for the Third World Organizing Institute: http://ctwo.org/


WEEK 8  SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TU Oct 20:  Putnam: Our Kids Chaps 3-4  Parenting and Schooling, pp. 80-190,

TH Oct 22:  visit: Lansing Schools  with Peter Spadafore, JMC alum and LSD Board President

WEEK 9)  Asset Based Organizing And Schools

TU Oct 27:  Patterson and Silverman Chaps 1-2 pp. 1-27 on D2L
Warren: Public Schools as Centers for Building Social Capital pp. 167-184 (on D2L)
Taylor, McGlynn, and Luter, Public Schools as Neighborhood Anchors Institutions Pp, 107-134 (on D2L)

TH Oct 29:  Putnam Chaps 5-6: “Community” and “What is to Be Done” pp. 191-270
Community methods

4.3 Annotated Bibliography due Friday Oct 30th by 4 pm or Monday Nov 2 by noon.

It will include a one page sum for each of your 15 sources. Sum the argument and state how this text helps to develop your thesis. This will be graded and is **worth 10% of your final grade**.
WEEK 10) Politics, Power, and Partnerships,

TU Nov. 3 Urban Politics readings available on D2L

TH Nov. 5 Bockmeyer: The Politics of Territory for Community Non-Profits in Shrinking City Planning Processes pp. 28-53 D2L

Jezierski: Pittsburgh Partnerships D2L

Lansing Economic Area Partnership http://www.purelansing.com/About-LEAP/Contact-U

Film: Second Shift: From Crisis to Collaboration http://www.secondshiftfilm.com/ (2014) Tom Lietz, Producer and Director, Terry Terry, Executive Producer

WEEK 11) Social Entrepreneurship

TU Nov. 10 Defining Social Entrepreneurship

Guo and Bielefeld: Social Entrepreneurship: An Evidence-Based Approach to Creating Social Value readings available on D2L

TH Nov. 12 visit: Michigan Non-Profit Association

Michigan Nonprofit Association re: the Civic Health Index.

Chelsea Martin, Civic Engagement Manager cmartin@mivolunteers.org

WEEK 12) Right to the City

TU Nov. 17 Cities for People, Not for Profit:


1. Cities for people, not for profit: an introduction Neil Brenner, Peter Marcuse and Margit Mayer
3. Whose right(s) to what city? by Peter Marcuse

15. Right to the city – from theory to alliance by Jon Liss

TH Nov. 19 Final Thoughts and Conclusions

WEEK 13) First Draft Conclusions

TU Nov 24 No class:

4.4 First draft with electronic abstract and bibliography due by Tuesday Nov 24 by 5:00 pm.
WEEK 14 - 16: 4.5 PRESENTATIONS and CONCLUSIONS

Dec 1: Presentations
1) _________________________________
2) _________________________________
3) _________________________________

Dec 3: Presentations and In-Class Evaluation
1) _________________________________
2) _________________________________
3) _________________________________

Brunch or Dinner at Professor Jezierski’s house Sunday Dec 6 10:30-1:30

Dec 8: Presentations
1) _________________________________
2) _________________________________
3) _________________________________

Dec 10: Presentations
1) _________________________________
2) _________________________________
3) _________________________________

Monday Dec 14 (Final Exam slot Monday 3-5 pm) Presentations
1) _________________________________
2) _________________________________
3) _________________________________

4.6 The final paper is due worth 25% of your final grade and is due on Wed Dec 16 by noon in my mailbox and in the D2L dropbox

Commencement Saturday December 19th