PSYCHOLOGY 175  
COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY  
Winter, 2009, MWF 9:00-9:50am, Boelter Hall 3400

Instructor: Prof. Hector F. Myers  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory survey course (Psych. 175) on the development and application of psychological theory and research to understanding, solving and preventing social problems. The major focus of this course is on redefining social problems, and re-conceptualizing and exploring new approaches to intervening and preventing these problems. The role of research and social action to facilitate social change are also examined.

PREREQUISITES FOR ENROLLMENT:

This is an upper division psychology course, and enrollment requires haven taken and passed Psych 10 (Introductory Psychology) and haven taken Psych 127 (Abnormal) is desirable, but not required. Priority is given to junior and senior Psychology majors. However, exceptions are made depending on space in the class. Students who don't meet one or more of these prerequisites and priorities, please discuss this with me immediately.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular class attendance and completion of the required readings is strongly recommended. Students should come prepared to class, which fosters greater interaction and students get more out of the material. Lecture notes will be posted ahead of time for each module, but this should not be considered an excuse for not attending class or doing the readings.

2. Exams: There will be two midterms, each of which will consist of 5-6 short answer essay questions and each counts for 45% of the final grade. These exams will be administered outside of class time in the evenings between 5-9pm. You will be informed of the date and location of each exam. Please plan accordingly. All students are expected to take the exams when they are scheduled. No exceptions. However, if there is a legitimate reason for not being able to make the exam time (e.g. conflicts with their work schedule), please inform me as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements can be made.

3. Short review paper: Students will select a social problem topic of interest and write a short 5 page critical review paper that will be due on the last day of classes. No exceptions.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Reader. Includes select chapters from several books and articles is available from Course Reader Materials, 1080 Broxton Ave., Westwood. Phone No. (310) 443-3303.
COURSE SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION & COURSE OVERVIEW: January 5th.

WEEKS 1 & 2 (Jan. 5-16) Historical Origins & Conceptual Perspectives of Community Psychology.

Reader: Chp. 1. What is Community Psychology?  
Chp. 2. How has Community Psychology Developed?


Martin Luther King Holiday - Monday, January 19th.

Reader: Chp. 5. Understanding Individuals Within Environments.  
Chp. 6. Understanding Community


Rudkin, Chp. 8. Stress & coping.

FIRST MIDTERM: Friday, Feb. 6 between 5-9pm. Final time & location to be determined.


Reader: Chp. 13. Community and Social Change  
Rudkin, Chp. 6. Embracing social change.  
Weick, Chp. 3 - Small wins: Redefining the scale of social issues.

WEEK 7 (Feb. 16-20). Theoretical & Methodological Issues in Prevention.

Presidents' Day Holiday - Monday, February 16th.


WEEK 8 (Feb. 23-27). Current & Future Prevention Applications

Reader: Chp. 10. Prevention & Promotion: Current & Future Applications  
American Psychologist, 58 (6-7), 449-456.

WEEK 9 (March 2-6). Community-based Research & Interventions.

Reader: Chp. 3. The Aims of Community Research.  
Chp. 4. Methods of Community Psychology Research.
WEEK 10 (March 9-13). Ethical Issues in Community Psychology.

Reader: Snow et. al. Chp. 36. A perspective on ethical issues in community psychology.

SECOND MIDTERM: Friday, March 13 between 5-9pm. Final time & location to be determined. Last Day of Classes.

Short Critical Review Papers are due by 5 pm on March 13th. No Exceptions.