

Introduction to

Community Psychology

Spring 2022 | Psy 270 | In-Person (starting remote) | Prerequisite: Psy 101 | 3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theory and research in community psychology. Prevention, social change, dissemination models, empowerment, and methods. This course will provide opportunities for you to learn about frameworks and approaches used in community psychology and practice them in a combination of reading, writing, watching, listening, and doing.



Professor:

Dr. Katie Clements

Pronouns: she/her

vadnais3@msu.edu

I will respond within 1 business day.

Natural Resources 158

Mon and Wed
8:30 – 9:50am

Office Hours – schedule at
calendly.com/drkvc

Graduate TA:

Nathan Baker

Pronouns:

bakerna7@msu.edu

Email for appointment



Office Hours

Office hours are informal ways to connect with your instructor. You can ask questions or discuss course topics. You may or may not have to have a specific concern. Schedule at the link above. Be sure you note Psy 270 in your appointment.



Required Text

Jason, L.A, Glantsman, O., O'Brien, J. F., & Ramian, K. N. (Eds.) (2019). **Introduction to community psychology: Becoming an agent of change.** [Creative Commons License](#)

- Open access, [download FOR FREE! here](#)
- All other material available via D2L



Course Format

This course meets in person twice each week. Complete assigned reading prior to class. Lecture will primarily be to elaborate on course concepts, and to give you a space to discuss and apply them to your own interests. Participation is necessary to receive the full benefits of the course. This is not a rote memorization course.



Classroom Philosophy

- We are whole people – I respect your “whole personness”
- We all must be active learners and co-create our learning environment
- Humble respect for others’ experiences, insights, and identities gives us the most room to learn and grow

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following are the course objectives you can expect to achieve this semester. By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Explain the foundations of community psychology and how it differs from other fields of psychology
- Describe the values, research methods, and approaches used in community psychology
- Examine social issues, including research and events, through an ecological lens
- Identify the ways community psychologists use their knowledge and skills to affect change
- Develop skills for engaging in critical discussion of social issues as scholars and citizens

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance



There is an attendance component to your grade, for weeks 2-16. 11 of these weeks count towards your grade.

Small Individual Assignments



Some weeks, you will complete a short individual assignment (worksheet-sized) on your topic of interest. Most of these assignments will be part of your contribution to a group assignment, so you will need to have it prepared in time to discuss with your group.

Group Assignments



You will each be assigned a topic of interest group, and you will work with your classmates sharing that interest topic. Some weeks, you will complete a discussion-based group assignment related to your shared topic of interest. Instructional details will be provided in D2L and discussed in class. You will be evaluated on your individual contribution.

Weekly Quizzes



Each week, you will complete short quizzes in D2L. These quizzes can be taken as many times as you'd like before the deadline (Friday, 7pm MSU time) to get the score you want. The purpose of the quiz is to ensure you understand the key concepts and terms associated with the week's topics. Your lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped.



Media Project

I believe scholarly knowledge should be publicly available. It is increasingly common to share research and new knowledge in creative ways to reach the general public. It also helps distill what is really important and valuable to know about a concept. The purpose of the project is to communicate a fundamental course concept (chapter topic) through the lens of your topic of interest to a non-academic audience. You may choose to complete this individually, with a partner, or with your topic of interest group! Further details in D2L. Possible project formats include:

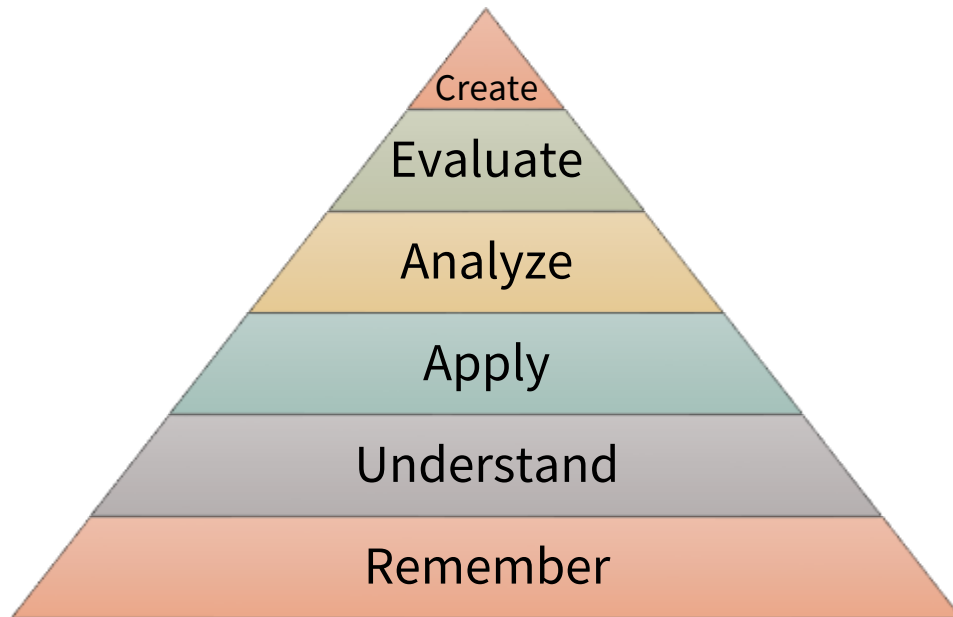
- Podcast
- Mini-presentation video
- Social media hashtag campaign
- Infographic (**requires draft**)
- Other? Bring me your creative ideas!

ASSIGNMENT MAPPING

I want us to cultivate a classroom where we are invested in the learning process (not an exam). Here is how I do that.

Bloom’s Taxonomy is basically a hierarchical classification of levels of thinking. Modern updates to the model have renamed the levels as verbs (things we consciously do), identified knowledge dimensions (the type of knowledge gained) and cognitive processes dimensions (the processes used to gain the knowledge). I use Bloom’s Taxonomy to ensure we’re mastering a variety of skills using a variety of cognitive processes.

Here is a diagram for our course that outlines how you’re progressing up through the levels of thinking in this course, via activities and cognitive processes. As you master more fundamental activities, you gain those skills and move up the hierarchy. Obviously, some of the assignments use multiple skills and processes.



Assignments	Bloom’s Taxonomy	Cognitive Skills (and many more!)
Media Project	Create	Design, develop
Group Assignments	Analyze & Evaluate	Argue, critique, compare, contrast
Individual Assignments	Apply	Implement, demonstrate
Weekly Quizzes	Remember & Understand	Explain, describe, summarize
Attendance	Remember	Recall

GRADING POLICIES

The grading scale and points allocated per assignment are shown below.

The bulk of your grade is made up of weekly quiz scores, which you can take infinite times until the Friday deadline, and I drop the lowest two scores. The dropped attendance and quiz scores mean that everyone gets to have some health days – no explanation required! I do not make additional exceptions to the grading criteria.

Individual and Group Assignments – you may submit these up to a week late, with a late penalty. You must notify me of late submissions after you submit them. I generally discourage late work, as your individual work contributes to the group assignment and therefore, your peers are counting on you.

No late projects accepted.

Grading Scale		
Grade	%	Points
4.0	89.5-100	271-302
3.5	84.5-89.4	256-270
3.0	79.5-84.4	240-255
2.5	74.5-79.4	225-239
2.0	69.5-74.4	210-224
1.5	64.5-69.4	195-209
1.0	59.5-64.4	180-194
0.0	≤59.4	≤179

Assignment Distribution

Assignment	Points	Setup	Contribution
Attendance	Up to 22 points	Lowest 3 dropped	7%
Weekly Quiz	Up to 120 points	Lowest 2 dropped	40%
Individual Assignments	Up to 50 points	All count	17%
Group Assignments	Up to 60 points	All count	20%
Project	Up to 50 points	Required	17%
Total	Up to 302 points		100%

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

The following describe various policies that will be enforced during the semester.



Deadlines and Due Dates

- Class: Mon, Wed 3-4:20 ET in person
- Most assignments due by class start

Note exceptions in the syllabus/assignment details. I will make reasonable accommodations for students who are unable to meet deadlines due to Covid-19.



Academic Misconduct

Both students and faculty are responsible for "maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards," per MSU's [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [Spartan Code of Honor](#). In addition, the Psychology Department adheres to 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. Your work must be your own original work, and all contributing ideas must be cited. If you are unsure, contact me.



Civility (Non-Academic Misconduct)

Developing a successful learning space requires extra attention to the way we engage each other, especially online. Our actions affect everyone in our community. This class may challenge and explore our own beliefs and we may find ourselves challenging each other's beliefs as well. Please remember that everyone is going to move through this material in their own way and from the lens of their own experiences, and if you do challenge your classmates, make sure it is with the goal of enhancing each other's learning.



Course Management Software (D2L)

- We use D2L (<https://d2l.msu.edu/>) for course management *and communication*.
- Please manually set your D2L emails to forward to your @msu.edu email (in D2L email settings)
- Please manually set your D2L announcements to forward to your email as well (d2l settings). Know how to check for announcements and messages in D2L.



Limits to Confidentiality

Please note that **the instructor of this course is a mandated reporter**. I am required to report all incidents of relationship violence and sexual misconduct that involve students, faculty, or staff, occurred at a University-sponsored event, or occurred on University property, and *even if these are reported in course materials*. Therefore, if you share such an experience with me, I will be required to share your name and the details of the disclosure to the Office of Inclusion and Equity (OIE) and MSU Police:

- *Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;*
- *Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and*
- *Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.*

OIE will include these facts, (not your name) in the University's statistics on sexual and domestic violence. They will also reach out to you via email with additional university resources. It is entirely your decision to use any of the provided services or even respond to the University's email.



Accommodations

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("VISA") form. Please email or have RCPD send this form to me as soon as possible or at least two weeks prior to the accommodation date (class, assignment, etc.).

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

You should expect a 4.0 in this class. Do the following, and you will succeed!



Reading and Projects

Complete the assigned reading/watching/listening before class.

They will help you develop an informed perspective to bring to class discussion. If you are confused about any part of the reading or have questions about what you read, bring those too! You will need informed background as you complete individual activities, and you'll want to bring an informed perspective to your group discussion. You may find that you share and collaborate well with your topic of interest group and want to collaborate on the final project. Or, you may find you vibe with a partner or alone and prefer to complete it that way.

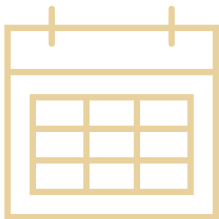


External resources

I am very aware that students are facing additional financial strain. If accessing external course resources is a financial barrier for you, let me know – there is no threshold of need here. No one will go without the resources they need for this class. We'll make sure you get what you need.

Weekly Schedule

I recommend maintaining a weekly schedule of activities for this class, and especially any with unusual schedules (online, once-a-week, etc.). It can be extra difficult for some students to hold themselves accountable in these course formats. The schedule below is just a suggestion, but I recommend sticking to something that works for you and helps spread out the work.



Monday: Class
Tuesday: Assignment
Wednesday: Class
Thursday: Assigned Content
Friday: Assignment



How to Email

I post all announcements in D2L, even though we meet in person. Check your email and D2L regularly for updates. Please forward your D2L inbox to your regular MSU email. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 hours except on weekends and holidays. I expect you will extend the same courtesy and respond to emails from your instructors and classmates in a timely manner. Please consider emailing the TA first, if we have one. Always include 'Psy 270' in your subject line so we can find your emails and respond appropriately. Always write your email in a professional manner (i.e., greeting, complete sentences, sign your name).



D2L

D2L will be used for administrative and instruction purposes including announcements, housing course documents (e.g., assignments, readings), and recording grades. Please explore D2L widely, so you know how to find materials and track your progress. As an instructor, I can also see your progress – including what you do and don't access and submit. Please remember the D2L HelpDesk (accessed at <http://d2l.msu.edu> or by phone at 1-800-500-1554) is a great tool for navigation and troubleshooting.



Personal Success

Please utilize me as a resource to help you succeed, both in class and outside class. I want you to 4.0 and enjoy this class, do well at MSU, and still have a life with your friends, family, and hobbies. If one or more of those things are not happening, please connect with me so we can work together to figure out a plan to improve your situation.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Here are some resources that may be helpful to you academically or personally. I can help you with needs pertaining to this course, and I will otherwise do my best to connect you to the right place. The university is a huge institution, and if a different form of support would be useful, we will do our best to help you find it.

Please, save the **National Suicide Prevention Hotline number in your phone: 800-273-8255**



MSU Dependent Care Support

Michigan State University offers a dependent care support program for children or elders.

This is a backup option if your usual child or eldercare falls through and a lack of care would stop you from attending class or completing schoolwork. Up to 40 hours of care per fiscal year are subsidized *per dependent*. More information about the program can be found here: <https://worklife.msu.edu/family-care/kids-parents/backup-care>.



Student Basic Needs

Student Advocates for Basic Needs Security (SABNS) is a student organization that advocates on behalf of students for the equitable distribution and practice of providing for the basic needs of students. Basic needs as it relates to this purpose are defined as affordable housing, access to healthy food options, and access to the hygiene and other resources that contribute to student success. Their website and resource guide are located at: <https://socialwork.msu.edu/students/student-advocates-for-basic-needs-security.html>.



MSU Student Food Bank

The MSU Student Food Bank serves MSU students experiencing food insecurity by providing free food and related items. You can visit their website here: <https://foodbank.msu.edu/> or email them at: foodbank@msu.edu.



Confidential MSU Resources

There are several resources available for students who would like confidential support, without mandated reporting to OIE or MSU Police. Most services are free.



Legal Services

Funded by student taxes, Student Legal Services provides free professional legal assistance and representation to eligible students through a contract with the law firm of Jeffries and Associates, PLLC. Call to engage services. <http://studentlegalservices.com/index.html>.



Writing Center and Collaborative Learning Center

The Writing Center (writing.msu.edu) and the Collaborative Learning Center (nssc.msu.edu/clc) help develop writing skills and successful academic strategies.

<p>MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) 3rd Floor Olin Health Center Building 463 E Circle Drive East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 355-8270</p>	<p>MSU Sexual Assault Program 207 Student Services Building 556 East Circle Drive East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 355-3551 (office) (517) 372-6666 (24 hour crisis line) Website: www.endrape.msu.edu Sexual Assault Healthcare Program – 24/7 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Student Services Bldg, Parking Website link (517) 353-2700</p>
<p>MSU Safe Place (Domestic Violence) (517) 355-1100 Email: noabuse@msu.edu Website: http://safeplace.msu.edu</p>	<p>University Ombudsperson 354 Farm Lane, Room 129, North Kedzie Hall East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 353-8830 Email: ombud@msu.edu Website: http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud</p>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each week we will cover a scholarship or practice area. See the attached reading list for each week.

W	Date	Topic	Assignments & Projects Due
1	1/10	Course, Syllabus, D2L, Topics of Interest	
	1/12	Reflections & Assumptions	
2	1/17	MLK Holiday	Weekly Quiz
	1/19	Social & Political Change	IA: Ladder of Inference Worksheet
3	1/24	History	Weekly Quiz
	1/26	Gender and Sexual Minorities	
4	1/31	Theory	Weekly Quiz
	2/2	Sense of Community	GA: TOI Ecological Model
5	2/7	Oppression, Power, Empowerment	Weekly Quiz
	2/9	Poverty & SES	If Remote: Power Lines Worksheet
6	2/14	Methods	Weekly Quiz, IA: Photo
	2/16	Photovoice	GA: Photovoice
7	2/21	Interventions	Weekly Quiz
	2/23	Evidence-based Practices	IA: Evidence-based Practice
8	2/28	Community Organizing	Weekly Quiz
	3/2	Children, Youth, & Families	GA: Community Organizing
9	<i>Spring Break!</i>		
10	3/14	Behavioral Community Approaches	Weekly Quiz
	3/16	Public Policy AND Education	
11	3/21	Prevention & Promotion	Weekly Quiz
	3/23	Substance Use	IA: Prevention vs Promotion
12	3/28	Dissemination & Implementation	Weekly Quiz
	3/30	Healthcare	GA: Project Skills Assessment
13	4/4	Program Evaluation	Weekly Quiz
	4/6	Mental Health	IA: TBD
14	4/11	International Perspectives	Weekly Quiz
	4/13	Environment	
15	4/18	Practice Competencies	Weekly Quiz
	4/20	Criminal Justice	IA/GA: Project Outline or Draft
16	4/25	Your Future	
	4/27		
	5/2	Final Exam Time: 7:45-9:45am	Final Project Due