Community Psychology

PSY 270, Fall 2019
MWF, 9:10 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
118 Psychology Building

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Please use the link above. I will not reply to individual inquiries regarding appointments.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Ruofan Ma
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Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Erynne Dixon
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Please address all email inquiries to the TAs **first** and allow for 24-48 business hours for a response. See "Course and Classroom Policies" for more information about email communication.

Course Description

This course will provide you with an introduction to the field of community psychology. This field focuses on the study of socially significant problems and their solutions. It goes beyond focusing on individuals and integrates social, cultural, political, environmental, economic, and international factors to promote positive behavior change at multiple ecological levels.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:
1. Explain the factors that led to the development of community psychology and how the field differs from other fields in psychology.
2. Identify important values, methods, and frameworks in community psychology.
3. Evaluate socially significant problems through an ecological lens.
4. Identify and apply common research methods used by community psychologists.

Course Readings
The text required for this course is on Top Hat (978-1-77330-545-5)

I will make additional readings available on D2L.

Course Management Software

Course Materials
Top Hat. In this course, we will use Top Hat (https://www.tophat.com) extensively during class. Therefore, you <u>must</u> purchase Top Hat if you have not done so previously. The pricing for Top Hat is below:

- **One Term: $26** (Choose this option if you <u>do not</u> expect any other instructor to use Top Hat in any of your other classes while you are at MSU.)
- **Annual: $38** (Choose this option if you will use Top Hat in other classes <u>this academic year only</u>.)
- **Lifetime: $75** (Choose this option if you expect to use Top Hat in other classes in the future while you are at MSU. If you choose this option, you will have access to Top Hat for the rest of your life.)

More information about Top Hat student pricing can be found here:
https://tophat.com/educational-technology/pricing/

You can use Apple or Android Smartphones, tablets, laptops, or text messaging to interact with the Top Hat system. (Note: I will also use Top Hat to take attendance.)

If you have a Top Hat account from a previous course, you can use the same account. An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: https://app.tophat.com/e/483770

Note: our Course Join Code is 457847.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Packback. We will also use Packback to foster out-of-class discussions. You will use the system to submit your weekly discussion questions, and I will select 8-10 questions for us to discuss as a class once each week through Top Hat.

Note: The Community Lookup Key is 24A75162-EB35-CC2D-2E7E-508F2020C306.

Because I am a firm believer in giving students opportunities to take an active role in their learning, I will also use some of the Packback discussions to create exam questions. Specifically, you should expect that between 10-20% of each exam to have questions drawn from Packback discussions. <u>The course fee for Packback is $18.</u>

You will also need the following:
- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to Desire2Learn (D2L)

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem you can:

Visit the Distance Learning Services Support Site
Visit the Desire2Learn Help Site (http://help.d2l.msu.edu/)
Or call Distance Learning Services: (800) 500-1554 or (517) 355-2345

Resource Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)

- To make an appointment with a specialist, contact: (517) 353-9642
  Or TTY: (517) 355-1293
- Web site for RCPD: http://MYProfile.rcpd.msu.edu

I will use D2L (https://d2l.msu.edu/) to post your grades and communicate with you. Please ensure that your contact information is current so that you receive all class-related emails. If you have any trouble using D2L, you can contact the helpdesk. If you are unfamiliar with D2L, please complete the on-line tutorial: from the D2L page, click on help. A new screen will open up: click on Student Quick Start Guide. Please direct all technical questions to the D2L helpdesk at 517.355.2345 or 800.500.1554.

Course Structure and Expectations

This course will include lectures, group discussion, and classroom activities. For this course, you are required to complete the assigned readings *before* coming to class. The lectures will complement—not replace—the assigned readings. Although this is a large class, I expect you to be a fully engaged participant. Therefore, your attendance and contributions are critical to meeting my expectations and for earning a satisfactory course grade.

Although I will use D2L for course management and communication, I will not upload to disseminate my lecture notes or slides. All content covered in the course may be included on course assessments; therefore, you should make your best effort to attend each class session.

Course Assignments and Grading

Service Learning Activity

Although this is a lecture course, community-engaged learning is important in understanding community psychology. Thus, you will participate in a service learning activity. For this activity, you will complete a minimum of 10 hours of service learning with a community organization (Honors students must complete 20 hours). Although the business sector is a part of the community, you cannot use hours accrued from a for-profit business in fulfillment of this course requirement.

In addition, you will be required to write a **two-page** (typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font) reflection paper about your service learning experience. Later, I

will provide you with more details. Please note the deadline in the Course Calendar on the last page of this syllabus.

Quizzes and Exams
You will complete a weekly quiz that will commence at the beginning of class, beginning the first class after Labor Day. I expect you to complete all readings prior to the beginning of the week's lecture, which is generally on Mondays.

You will have three (3) noncomprehensive exams in this course, spaced about one month apart. I will give you a detailed study guide approximately one week prior to each exam. Use the study guide; anything on it is fair game for the exam. If it is not on the study guide, it will not be on the exam.

Make-Up Exams
If you miss one of the first three exams, please schedule a time with one of the course TAs to take it through Top Hat. They will proctor the exam for you.

Grading
I will post supplemental course materials to Desire2Learn (https://d2l.msu.edu). Any material posted on the course site will be fair game for exams. Therefore, I highly recommend you review the posted content (e.g., assigned readings).

Extra Credit
Every semester, I receive questions like, "Will you give extra credit in this class?" The short answer is "No." The long answer is "No." In other words:

To calculate your overall earned course grade, I will apply the following weights to your graded activities:

Course Component	Weight
Top Hat & Reading Quiz Average	15%
Class Participation (Top Hat)	5%
Online Discussion (Packback)	5%
Community-Engaged Learning	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2 (Mid-Term Exam)	20%
Exam 3	20%
Total	**100%**

Packback grades will be assigned based on the number of "curiosity points" you earn based on the quality of your Packback posts and responses. Your numerical grade will be multiplied by 25 to get the grade that will be assigned to the "Packback Discussion Posts" above.

Curiosity Points	Numerical Grade
760+	4.0
665-759	3.5
570-664	3.0
475-569	2.5
380-474	2.0
285-379	1.5
190-284	1.0
0-189	0.0

In accordance with Michigan State University's grading policy, I will assign your final earned grade using the following scale:

Course Grade	Percentage	Course Performance
4.0	89.5-100%	Superior
3.5	84.5-89.4%	Excellent
3.0	79.5-84.4%	Good
2.5	74.5-79.4%	Average
2.0	69.5-74.4%	Adequate
1.5	64.5-69.4%	Inadequate
1.0	59.5-64.4%	Poor
0.0	0-59.4%	Unacceptable

Class Conduct and Professional Courtesy

In this class, I expect everyone to behave in a professional and courteous manner. We will learn about diverse perspectives throughout this course, both in the material and class discussions. As such, I expect you to respect one another, even amid disagreements. Students who emit disrespectful behaviors will be asked to leave the classroom.

Attendance
Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

Academic Integrity
Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilites (SRR)](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in 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. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](#).)

As emerging professionals, you are expected to behave ethically and with integrity. To that end, every assignment you submit must be your own work. Unless I give you prior authorization, I expect you to complete all course assignments, including homework, quizzes, tests, and exams, without assistance from any source. Also, you cannot to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course.

If I suspect an instance of academic misconduct, Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Please contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity](#) webpage.) If appropriate, I will forward the incident to the Director of Undergraduate Programs, the departmental chairperson or the dean for mediation.

Intellectual Property
I retain the intellectual property rights of all materials (e.g., PowerPoint slides, assignments, lecture notes, etc.) that I develop and use in this class. Therefore, you are not permitted to distribute any course materials I develop without my written consent.

Likewise, any work you complete in this class will be considered your intellectual property for which you will retain all rights. This includes short writing assignments, test answers, and any other products you develop and submit for this course. Therefore, I will not share your materials with the public or other students without your written consent or as required by law or University policy.

Limits to Confidentiality
Class materials are considered confidential pursuant to the University, state, and federal student record policies. As such, I will not divulge any information about your performance in this course (including your grades) to anyone unless required by law or University policy.

That being said, as a University employee, I cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with my responsibility to report certain issues based on legal obligations or health and safety considerations for Michigan State University community members and others. As your professor, I <u>must</u> report the following information to the appropriate University office(s) if you share it with me:

1. *Suspected child abuse and/or neglect, even if the maltreatment happened when you were a child*
2. *Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when MSU students, faculty, or staff are involved*
3. *Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others*

Please note that these reports may result in you being contacted by a campus official who may want to discuss with you the incident you shared with me. In almost all cases, you can decide whether to speak with the individual. If you would like to discuss these events in a more confidential setting, I encourage you to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center (http://www.counseling.msu.edu/students).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
(from the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): 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 present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

Disruptive Behavior
Article 2.III.B.4 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the SRR states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

Course Schedule
Note: the schedule is subject to change with advance notice.
Yellow = Exams
Green = Mental Health Days
Teal = Community-Engaged Learning Due

Wednesday, August 28

-Course Introduction

-Assignment: Read "Introduction to Community Psychology" on Top Hat

Friday, August 30

-Lecture: Introduction to Community Psychology

-Assignment: Read "Foundations of Community Psychology" on Top Hat

Monday, September 2

-No Class (Labor Day)

Wednesday, September 4

-Lecture: Foundations of Community Psychology

- Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, September 6

-Packback Discussion: Foundations of Community Psychology

Monday, September 9

-Lecture: Ethics in Community-Based Research

Wednesday, September 11

-Lecture: Ethics in Community-Based Research

-Ethics Activity

- Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, September 13

-Packback Discussion: Ethics

-Assignment: Read "Conducting Community-Based Research" on Top Hat

Monday, September 16

-Lecture: Conducting Community-Based Research

Wednesday, September 18

-Lecture: Conducting Community-Based Research

-Research Activity

- Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, September 20

-Packback Discussion: Conducting Community-Based Research

-Assignment: Read "Program Implementation and Evaluation" on Top Hat

Monday, September 23

-Mental Health Day

Wednesday, September 25

-Lecture: Program Implementation and Evaluation

-Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, September 27

-Packback Discussion: Program Implementation and Evaluation

-Exam 1 Study Session

-Assignment: Continue studying for Exam 1

Monday, September 30

-Exam 1

-Assignment: Complete D2L readings in the "Substance Use & Mental Health" content folder. Complete any time before Wednesday's class.

Wednesday, October 2

-Reading Quiz

-Lecture: Substance Use and Mental Health

-Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, October 4

-Packback Discussion: Substance Use and Mental Health

-Assignment: Complete D2L readings in the "Marginalization and Oppression" content folder.

Monday, October 7

-Reading Quiz

-Lecture: Marginalization and Oppression

Wednesday, October 9

-Lecture: Marginalization and Oppression

-Privilege Activity

- Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, October 11

-Packback Discussion: Marginalization and Oppression

Monday, October 14

-Mental Health Day

Wednesday, October 16

-Mid-Semester Check-In: How Are We Doing?

Friday, October 18

-Assignment: Complete D2L readings in the "Violence" content folder.

Monday, October 21

-Reading Quiz

-Lecture: Violence

Wednesday, October 23

-Lecture: Violence

-Class activity

-Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, October 25

-Packback Discussion: Violence

-Exam 2 Study Session

-<u>Assignment:</u> Continue studying for Exam 2

Monday, October 28

-<mark>Exam 2</mark>

-<u>Assignment:</u> Read "Homelessness and Poverty" on Top Hat

Wednesday, October 30

-Lecture: Homelessness and Poverty

-<u>Assignment:</u> Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, November 1

-Packback Discussion: Homelessness and Poverty

-<u>Assignment:</u> Complete D2L readings in the "Disability Rights" content folder.

Monday, November 4 – NO CLASS

-<u>Assignment</u>: Complete Diversity Scavenger Hunt Activity

Wednesday, November 6 – NO CLASS

-<u>Assignment:</u> Complete Diversity Scavenger Hunt Activity

Friday, November 8 – NO CLASS

-<u>Assignment:</u> Complete Diversity Scavenger Hunt Activity

Monday, November 11

-Scavenger Hunt Activity Discussion

-Reading Quiz

-Lecture: Disability Rights

Wednesday, November 13

-Lecture: Disability Rights

-Class Activity on Disability Rights

-<u>Assignment:</u> Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, November 15

-Packback Discussion: Disability Rights

-Assignment: Complete D2L readings in the "Immigration, Migration, and Asylum" content folder.

Monday, November 18

-Reading Quiz

-Lecture: Immigration, Migration, and Asylum

Wednesday, November 20

-Lecture: Immigration, Migration, and Asylum

-Assignment: Packback Post (ask or respond to 1 question)

Friday, November 22

-Packback Discussion: Immigration, Migration, and Asylum

-Study Session for Exam 3

-Assignment: Continue studying for Exam 3

-*Assignment Due: Community-Engaged Learning Hours & Paper*

Monday, November 25 – NO CLASS

Wednesday, November 27 – NO CLASS

Friday, November 29 – NO CLASS

Monday, December 2

-Exam 3

Wednesday, December 4

-Assignment: Read "The Future of Community Psychology" on Top Hat

Friday, December 6

-Lecture: The Future of Community Psychology

-Last Day of Class

-Final course reflection