




Introduction to

Community Psychology

Spring 2023 | Psy 270 | Natural Science 116 | 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 Science 116 Mon and Wed 10:20 – 11:40 am	Office Hours – Friday 1:30-3:00 (psy 136) or schedule at calendly.com/drkvc
Graduate TA: Rosaura Dominguez-Rebollar Pronouns: she/her	doming75@msu.edu		By appointment - email
Undergraduate Learning Assistant: Caleb Bonno Pronouns: he/him	bonnocal@msu.edu		By appointment - email
Hailey Smith Pronouns: she/her	smithh73@msu.edu		By appointment - email



Office Hours

Office hours are informal ways to connect with your instructor – and I love to get to know students! You can ask questions or discuss course topics. You may or may not have a specific concern, and that’s ok. You can stop by my office at the time above, or schedule with the calendly link. 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, electronic copy only - [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 all whole people (not just students or professors) – 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
- We’re all doing our best! It may look different than it did yesterday, or what it will be tomorrow, or different from someone else’s. But let’s bring our best, as it is in this moment.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

These are the course objectives we will 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



COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY IN ACTION

This semester, we are planning the **best community psychology course ever!** Students have spoken, and we have listened. Community psychology training differs from other areas of psychology in many ways – one of which is that they are trained to work with community groups instead of individuals. We (your instructors) have set up a partnership with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus and you will work in small groups to partner with an RSO. We are trying this for the first time, so we may encounter a number of unpredictable challenges. We have done our best in planning this, but as you will learn, many unexpected outcomes occur when we apply coursework to real life! For the purpose of this course, **you will serve as a kind of ‘consultant’** to the RSO – providing your expertise in community psychology to help them achieve their goals.

We will match you with an organization. Here’s what the partnership will entail:

1. Set up contacts – who will be primary contact and backup contact (for RSO, and your group)
2. Relationship building period – get to know your org! You will want to understand their:
 - a. Long-term goals
 - b. Short-term goals
 - c. Challenges
 - d. Activities – attend a meeting (or more!), see what they do!
 - e. Community participation – who currently participates? Who is not participating? Who do they want to reach?
 - f. Community role – how do they see themselves as part of the MSU community?
 - i. What relationships does the org have? What relationships does it want?
3. Complete class assignments about RSO and their goals or needs, as if they were your client
4. Share draft of group assignment with RSO contacts for feedback (save that feedback!)
5. End-of-semester reflection on the partnership

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance



There is an attendance component to your grade, for weeks 3-16. 11 of these weeks count towards your grade. Students routinely report that attending class helps them apply the concepts. Students also report that their favorite learning moments come from class engagement – you! It costs between \$1,975 and \$5,252¹ just for you to be enrolled in this class – make it count.

Small Individual Assignments



Some weeks, you will complete a short individual assignment (worksheet-sized) about your community partner (RSO). 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. These individual assignments are what will be discussed in the group assignment.

Group Assignments



Group assignments are primarily discussion with your group mates about each other's individual ideas. You will each be working with a small group as consultants for an MSU RSO, and you will work with your classmates to use your community psychology knowledge and skills to help them meet their goals. Some weeks, you will use your individual work to complete a discussion-based group assignment related to your partner. Instructional details will be provided in D2L and discussed in class. You will be evaluated on your individual contribution. The 'group' aspect will be sharing your reflections and integrations of other students' ideas.

Weekly Quizzes



Each week, you will complete short quizzes in D2L. These quizzes can be taken up to 3 times before the deadline (Friday, 7pm MSU time). The purpose of the quiz is to ensure you understand the key concepts and terms associated with the week's topics and primarily come from the assigned reading. I recommend you read first, then test your knowledge with the quiz. Go back to the book/article to review any topics you missed, then retake! 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, which will be applicable to your future career or life role. **The purpose of the project is to communicate a topic below to a non-academic audience. You may choose to complete this individually, with a partner, or with a small group of up to four (4) students! You will do this by applying that course concept to your experience as an RSO consultant. In other words, tell us how you used community psychology and what you learned!** Further details in D2L. Possible project formats include:

- Podcast
- Video
- Social media campaign

Choose from these topics:

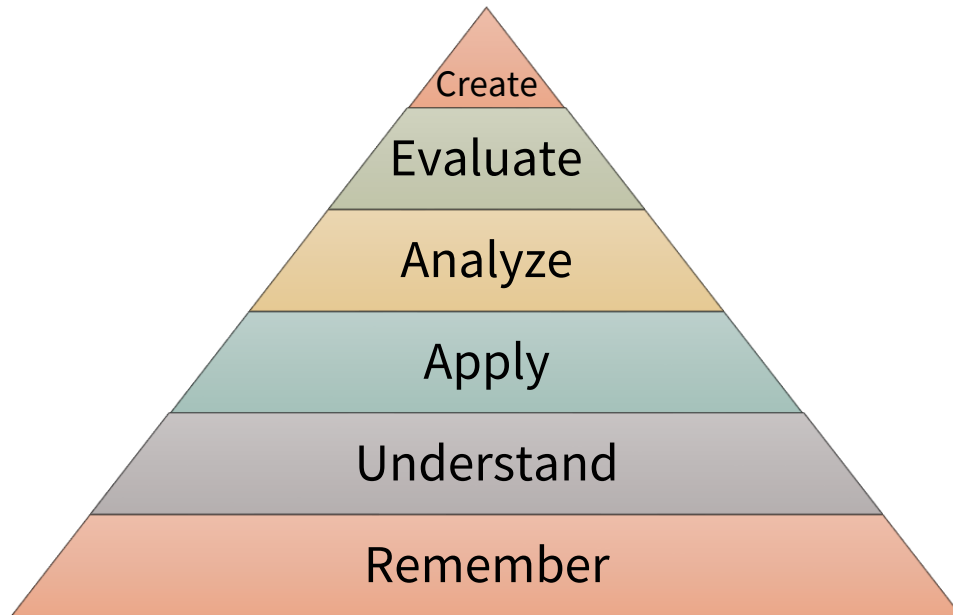
- Social & Political Change
- Theories in Community Psychology
- Oppression and Power
- Empowerment
- Research Methods
- Community Interventions
- Evidence-based Practices
- Community Organizing
- Behavioral Community Approaches
- Public Policy
- Prevention & Promotion
- Dissemination & Implementation
- Program Evaluation
- Practice Competencies

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 three (3) 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 email me and the TA of late submissions so we can grade 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	Percentage
4.0	89.5-100
3.5	84.5-89.4
3.0	79.5-84.4
2.5	74.5-79.4
2.0	69.5-74.4
1.5	64.5-69.4
1.0	59.5-64.4
0.0	≤59.4

Assignment Distribution

Assignment	Points	Setup	Contribution
Attendance	Up to 22 points	Lowest 4 dropped	~7%
Weekly Quiz	Up to 110 points	Lowest 2 dropped	~36%
Individual Assignments	Up to 40 points	All count	~13
Group Assignments	Up to 80 points	All count	~27%
RSO partnership			
Media 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 10:20 – 11:40 ET in person
- Most assignments due by 12 noon Wed
- Quizzes due Fri 7pm

Note exceptions in the syllabus/assignment details. I will make reasonable accommodations for students if notified in a timely manner. I never assign weekend or late night deadlines, in alignment with my values.



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. 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. 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)
- **Very important:** 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 instructors of this course are mandated reporters**. We are 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 us, we are 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 and options. 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. **Important:** Please email or have RCPD send this form to me as soon as possible but **at least two weeks prior to the accommodation date** (class, assignment, etc.). VISAs are not retroactive. You must submit them prior to the accommodation, so submit early **even if you’re unsure if you will need it.**

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Most students earn a 4.0 in this class, and you should too. 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. Please email all 4 instructors a picture of your favorite animal by 1/31 for extra credit.



External resources

I am very aware that students are facing additional financial strain. I have worked to create a course that requires no extra materials cost. If accessing any 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.). 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: Assigned Content
Wednesday: Class
Thursday: Submit quiz
Friday: Read next week's chapter



Writing Center and Collaborative Learning Center

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



How to Email

I post all announcements in D2L, even though we meet in person. Check D2L regularly for updates, and especially before you email – often I've already answered your question there! Please forward your D2L inbox and announcements to your regular MSU email. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 1 business day. **Please consider emailing the TA first, especially about assignments.** I expect you will extend the same courtesy and respond to emails from your instructors and classmates in a timely manner. *Always include 'Psy 270' in your subject line* so we can find your emails and respond appropriately. MSU is my professional workplace, and it's easy to email your professors respectfully. Follow these guidelines: [Email without being annoying](#)



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. Please route your technological concerns to them.



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

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**
Mental Health Hotline: 988



MSU Campus Resource List

The Department of Psychology has compiled a list of academic, mental health, culture, and identity resources around campus: <https://psychology.msu.edu/undergraduates/student-resources.html>



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*. <https://worklife.msu.edu/family-care/kids-parents/backup-care>.



MSU Student Food Bank

The MSU Student Food Bank serves MSU students experiencing food insecurity by providing free food and related items. Website: <https://foodbank.msu.edu/> Email: foodbank@msu.edu.



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>.



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>.



Confidential MSU Resources

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

<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	1/9	Course, Syllabus, D2L, RSO Plan	
	1/11	Reflections & Assumptions	
2	1/16	MLK Holiday	Weekly Quiz – Ch 17
	1/18	Social & Political Change	IA: Ladder of Inference Worksheet
3	1/23	History	Weekly Quiz – Ch 2
	1/25	Gender and Sexual Minorities	
4	1/30	Theory	Weekly Quiz – Ch 5
	2/1	Sense of Community	GA: TOI Ecological Model
5	2/6	Oppression, Power, Empowerment	Weekly Quiz – Ch 9 and 10
	2/8	Poverty & SES	
6	2/13	Methods	Weekly Quiz - Ch 6
	2/15	Photovoice	GA: Photovoice
7	2/20	Prevention & Promotion	Weekly Quiz – Ch 12
	2/22	Substance Use	IA: Prevention vs Promotion
8	2/27	Interventions	Weekly Quiz – Ch 11
	3/1	Evidence-based Practices	
9	<i>Spring Break!</i>		
10	3/13	Program Evaluation	Weekly Quiz – Mertens & Wilson Intro Chapter
	3/15	Mental Health	IA: Logic Model
11	3/20	Community Organizing	Weekly Quiz – Ch 15
	3/22	Children, Youth, & Families	GA: Community Organizing
12	3/27	Behavioral Community Approaches	Weekly Quiz – 16 and 14
	3/29	Public Policy AND Education	
13	4/3	Dissemination & Implementation	Weekly Quiz - 18
	4/5	Healthcare	IA: Project Skills Assessment
14	4/10	Practice Competencies	Weekly Quiz – Ch 7
	4/12	Criminal Justice	GA: Reflection on RSO Partnership
15	4/17	International Perspectives	Weekly Quiz - Ch 4
	4/19	Environment	IA/GA: Project Outline or Draft
16	4/24	Your Future	
	4/26	Guest Panel	
	5/4	Final Exam Time: 7:45-9:45am	Final Project Due

*Attendance starts in week 3.

Assignments are listed by week, **not** class meeting date. You will start assignment in listed week; collaborate with RSO
 “IA” indicates Individual Assignment, “GA” indicates Group Assignment