Introduction to
Community Psychology

Fall 2021 | Psy 270 | Hybrid-Tues live | 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.	Tues 8:30-9:20am Rm 118 Psy	After class, or by appointment
Graduate Assistants: **Rosaura Dominguez-Rebollar** Pronouns: she/her	doming75@msu.edu		By appointment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

✓ Explain the foundations of community psychology and how this field differs from other fields in 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

OFFICE HOURS

- Join me after class to talk more!
- Location TBD
- Bring your questions or comments, or let's continue our classroom conversation

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 REQUIREMENTS

The following are the course activities and assignments. Full assignment instructions in D2L.

Packback Discussion (25%)

To help cultivate a sense of community, we will use Packback Questions (www.packback.co) to facilitate discussion online and during class time. The lowest three weeks of scores will be dropped. The "discussion" part of your grade includes the way we engage in Packback and during class, as most of our class time will be discussion-based. You must get Curiosity Scores of 70% by:

- Posting 1 question, and 2 replies
- Deadline is Fridays at 6 pm ET
- Register through the Packback email you received, or by going to https://questions.packback.co/login
- "Join a community" with our Community Lookup Code: 8e875e31-1d8b-43dd-a4bc-4fe114be1c7b

Individual Reflections (30%)

Community psychology will cover many topics you may have heard of or learned about, from a new scholarly perspective. To evaluate your progress with our learning objectives, you will write 3 individual reflections on course topics. These scholarly reflections should be more scholarly and academic than a journal entry, but less rigorous than a research paper. You should consider them clear examples of how you are applying the concepts from the course to your life, or how you think they apply outside of the course. Examples of previous students' excellent papers are posted in D2L. Cite all of your sources!

- Deadlines on page 7 – submit any time before the deadline!
- Must include references to course material
- Must be written in a scholarly fashion (citations, grammar, spelling, etc.)
- Up to 3 pages s

Projects (45%)

I believe scholarly knowledge should be publicly available. It is increasingly common to share research and new knowledge in creative ways to reach people outside of the research project. It also helps distill what is really important and valuable to know about a concept. The purpose of the project is to communicate course concepts to a non-academic audience. Given the limitations of this semester, this is a group project – yay! You will be assigned groups in D2L. Drafts and final projects will be submitted in D2L dropboxes. Regardless of the format you choose for your project, **you must include:**

- ✓ Integration of feedback from first draft in final draft (submit draft for extra credit)
- ✓ High quality, engaging visuals or sound
- ✓ Thorough and accurate explanation of the concept to a lay audience. It should be understandable to anyone outside this class
- ✓ At least 3 examples of the concept that were **not** in the text or mini lectures

You will complete two projects. You must choose one concept from the first half of class, and one from the second half. I encourage you to scan the concepts early, so you have plenty of time to find an interested partner/group and develop your material.

**Earn extra credit by submitting a draft version the week before it's due, and incorporating our feedback!

Possible project formats include:

- **Podcast**
- **Mini-presentation video**
- **Social media hashtag campaign**
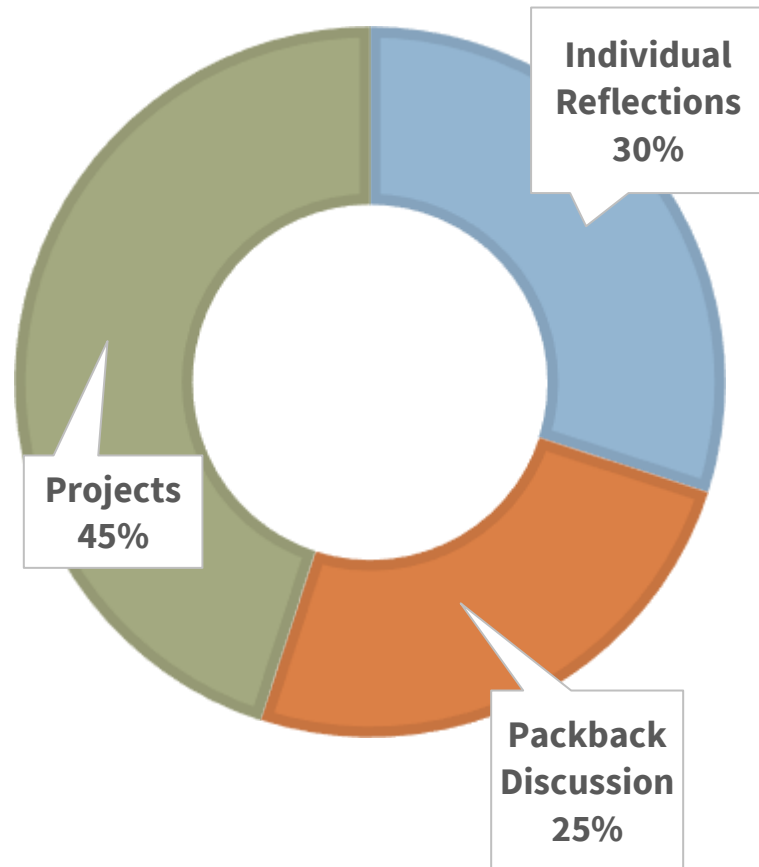- **Other? Bring me your creative ideas!**

GRADING POLICIES

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

Grading Scale

Grade	%
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

- Individual Reflections
- Packback Discussion
- Projects

Individual Reflections 30%

Projects 45%

Packback Discussion 25%

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

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

Deadlines and Due Dates

- Firm assignment deadlines
- Generally, due dates will be Fridays

I will make accommodations for students who are unable to meet deadlines due to Covid-19. This will not harm your performance or put you at a disadvantage in this class.

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 online learning space requires extra attention to the *way* we engage each other. Our actions affect everyone in our community. This class may offer the opportunity to challenge and explore our own beliefs and we may find ourselves challenging other people'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 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 online course management *and communication*.
- Know how to check for announcements and email messages in D2L.
- Manually set your D2L emails and announcements to forward to your @msu.edu email (in D2L communication settings)
- Additional software accessible through D2L

Limits to Confidentiality

Please note that **the instructor of this course and the graduate TA 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 one of us, we 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 (test, project, etc).

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

You should expect a 4.0 in this class. Do the following, and you will succeed! Email me a photo of your favorite animal using the Pro Tips in D2L, Week 1, by 9/30, for a bonus token!

Reading and Projects

Read the assigned text early in the week. They will help you develop an informed discussion post, reflections, and your project ideas. If you are confused about any part of the reading or have questions about what you read, bring your questions to Packback and prepare to discuss in class!
The projects are worth the biggest portion of your grade and you should start early. You may choose ANY two course topics, which gives you plenty of time to think through your project design.

External resources

I am very aware that students are facing additional financial strain. Fortunately, MSU has entered into a partnership with Packback, so it is now free for students. I have also been compiling resources to help with your projects that are free (e.g., creating infographics, etc.)

Weekly Schedule

At least half of this course is online. I recommend maintaining a weekly schedule of activities for this and any other online courses. This may be a new format for you, so consider how to develop a schedule that helps you stay on track. The schedule below is just a suggestion, but I recommend sticking to something that works for you and spreads out the work.

How to Email

Email/announcements will be sent to you through D2L. Check your email and D2L regularly for updates. I recommend forwarding your D2L inbox to your regular MSU email (you can forward D2L announcements too!). 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 other instructors and your classmates in a timely manner. If you need to reach out with a question via email, include '**Psy 270 Tuesday'** in your subject line so I can easily find it. Please write your email in a professional manner (i.e., professional greeting, write complete sentences, sign your name).

D2L

D2L will be used for administrative purposes including announcements, housing course documents (e.g., mini-lectures, assignments, readings), and recording grades. Mini lectures will be posted here, and may include deeper dives into some of our concepts, or highlight important concepts, depending on class needs. Please explore D2L widely, so you know how to track your progress. As an administrator, I can also see your progress. Please remember the D2L HelpDesk (accessed at http://d2l.msu.edu or by phone at 1-800-500-1554) is a great tool.

Monday: Read, annotate
Tuesday: Live class, Packback question
Wednesday: ~270 break~
Thursday: D2L lecture, Packback respond and reply
Friday: Project/Reflection

Personal Success

Please utilize me as a resource to help you succeed, both in class and outside class. I want you to get a 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. 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.

MSU Backup Dependent Care Program

Michigan State University offers a Backup Dependent Care Program for children or elders. This is meant to be a backup option for students if their usual child or eldercare falls through and a lack of care would stop them from attending class or completing schoolwork. More information about the program can be found here: 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. You can visit their website here: https://foodbank.msu.edu/ or email them at: foodbank@msu.edu.

Counseling Services

Free professional counseling services are available to all MSU students. To make an appointment call 355-8270 (TTY users call 353-7278) during business hours. Offices are in Room 207 Student Services Building. You may learn more about their services at https://caps.msu.edu/services/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.

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. They offer four annual scholarships by nomination. Their website is: https://socialwork.msu.edu/students/student-advocates-for-basic-needs-security.html.

Confidential MSU Resources

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

MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) 3rd Floor Olin Health Center Building 463 E Circle Drive East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 355-8270	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 SA Healthcare program, staffed 24/7
MSU Safe Place (517) 355-1100 Email: noabuse@msu.edu Website: http://safeplace.msu.edu	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

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each week we will cover one broad topic and we will spotlight one specific area of research.

W	Date	Topic	Assignments & Projects
1*	08/31	**Intro**	Packback Discussion
2*	09/07	**History**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Marginalized Groups	
3	09/14	**Theory**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Sense of Community	
4	09/21	**Oppression, Power, Empowerment**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Poverty & SES	
5	9/28	**Methods**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Mental Health	**Reflection #1 due (topic from Wk 2-5)**
6	10/05	**Interventions**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Children, Youth, & Families	
7	10/12	**Prevention & Promotion**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Substance Use	
8	10/19	**Community Organizing**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Immigrant Justice	**Project 1 Deadline**
9*	10/26	**Personal Health Week**	
10	11/02	**Dissemination & Implementation**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Healthcare	**Reflection #2 due (topic from Wk6-10)**
11	11/09	**International Perspectives**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Environment	
12	11/16	**Social & Political Change**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Criminal Justice	
13	11/23*	**Behavioral Community Approaches & Public Policy**	Packback Discussion
14	11/30	**Practice Competencies**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Housing	**Reflection #3 due (topic from Wk11-14)**
15	12/07	**Your Future**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Education	
16	12/14	**Finals Week**	**Project 2 Deadline**

*Short week

**Remember, you must complete 3 individual reflection papers and 2 projects - one during the first half and one during the second half

Syllabus Clause: We will try new things throughout this course to meet our needs. If and when we learn better ways to do that, we will implement them. As a result, this syllabus is subject to change.

WEEKLY reading/watching/listening

All materials outside of the textbook will be posted on D2L. This list of tasks is subject to change.

Week 01: 08/31 – What is this course all about?
1. ICP[i] Chapter 1: Introduction

Week 02: 09/06 – 9/10 – History AND Marginalized Groups
1. Read: ICP Chapter 2: History
2. Read: Paceley et al. (2020). "It feels like home": Transgender youth in the Midwest and conceptualizations of community climate. *Journal of Community Psychology, 48*, 1863-1881.

Week 03: 09/13 -09/17 – Theory AND Sense of Community
1. Read: ICP Chapter 5: Theories
2. Watch: Detroit 48202 (film)

Week 04: 09/20-09/24 - Oppression, Power, and Empowerment AND Poverty & SES
1. Skim: ICP Chapter 8: Respect for Diversity (will help you understand Ch 9-10)
2. Read: ICP Chapter 9: Oppression and Power
3. Read: ICP Chapter 10: Empowerment

Week 05: 09/27 – 10/01 - Methods AND Mental Health
1. Read: ICP Chapter 6: Research Methods
2. Read: Petrini et al. (2020). Continuum between relational and therapeutic models of self-hep in mental health: A qualitative approach. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 65,* 290-304.

Week 06: 10/04 – 10/08 - Interventions AND Children, Youth, & Families
1. Read: ICP Chapter 11: Community Interventions
2. Watch: Resilience (film)

Week 07: 10/11 – 10/15 – Prevention & Promotion AND Substance Use
1. Read: ICP Chapter 12: Prevention and Promotion
2. Read: Skewes et al. (2019). Partnering with Native communities to develop a culturally grounded intervention for substance use disorder. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 64,* 72-82.

Week 08: 10/18-10/22 – Community Organizing AND Immigrant Justice
1. Read: ICP Chapter 15: Community Organizing, Partnerships, and Coalitions
2. Watch: Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth (film)

Week 09: 10/25 – 10/29 – Personal Health Week *No assignments or deadlines, take care of yourself*

Week 10: 11/01 – 11/05 – Dissemination & Implementation AND Healthcare
1. ICP Chapter 18: Dissemination and Implementation
2. Read: Hilgendorf et al. (2019). Language, culture, and collectivism: Uniting coalition partners and promoting holistic health in the Menominee Nation. *Health Education & Behavior, 46(1_Suppl),* 81S-87S.

Week 11: 11/08 – 11/12 – International Perspectives AND Environment
1. ICP Chapter 4: International Perspectives

2. Read: TBD

Week 12: 11/15 – 11/19 – Social & Political Change AND Criminal Justice
1. ICP Chapter 17: Social and Political Change
2. Watch: The Prison in Twelve Landscapes (film)

Week 13: 11/22 – 11/26 – Behavioral Community Approaches & Public Policy AND Education
1. Read: ICP Chapter 16: Behavioral Community Approaches
2. Read: ICP Chapter 14: Public Policy
3. Read: Cohen et al. (2020). Opportunities for youth participatory action research to inform school district decisions. *Evidence & Policy, 16*(2), 317-329.

Week 14: 11/29 – 12/03 – Practice Competencies AND Housing
1. ICP Chapter 7: Practice Competencies
2. Read: López-Zerón, Gabriela, Clements, K. V., & Sullivan, C. (2019). *Examining the Impact of the Domestic Violence Housing First Model in California: A Multipronged Evaluation.* East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University

Week 15: 12/06-12/10 – Your Future
1. ICP Chapter 19: Looking into your Future
2. Watch: Everything Must Fall (film)

Week 16: 12/13-12/17 – Finals Week, no new topics

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[i] ICP = Introduction to Community Psychology: Becoming an Agent of Change textbook.