Introduction to

Community Psychology

Fall 2020 | Psy 270 | Asynchronous Online | 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.

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Professor: Dr. Katie Clements Pronouns: she/her	vadnais3@msu.edu I will respond within 1 business day.	D2L asynchronous course	**Zoom,** Thursdays 1-2pm or by appointment
Graduate Assistants: Malu Castro Pronouns: he/him, they/them	castrokr@msu.edu		Mondays 10-11am
Mallet Reid Pronouns: he/him	reidmall@msu.edu		Wednesdays 9-10 am
Undergraduate Assistants: Evelyn Hawley Pronouns: she/her	hawleyev@msu.edu		Thursdays 4-5pm
Haoyan Lin Pronouns: she/her	linhaoya@msu.edu		Tuesdays 1-2pm

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.

COFFEE HOURS

• In lieu of traditional office hours
• Join at: https://msu.zoom.us/j/93102064469
• During the times noted above
• Bring your questions or comments
• Coffee optional

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 (20%)

To create a sense of community in our online course, we will use Packback Questions (www.packback.co) to facilitate discussion. The lowest 15% of scores will be dropped. You must get Curiosity Scores of 45% by:

- Posting 1 question, and 3 replies:
- Posting a response to another question
- Replying to someone on your question
- Deadline is Fridays at 5 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: c8dc7555-3ed8-4bfe-b982-34e9f87bd0e0

Individual Reflections (25%)

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 4 individual reflections on course topics.

- Deadlines on page 7
- Evaluated on growth – integration of previous feedback
- Must include references to course material
- Must be written in a scholarly fashion (citations, grammar, spelling, etc.)
- Up to 3 pages

Projects (35%)

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. You may work individually, with a partner, or in a small group of up to four students. Drafts and final projects will be submitted in D2L dropboxes. Regardless of the format you choose for your project, **you must include:**

- ✓ First draft submitted to D2L dropbox
- ✓ Integration of feedback from first draft in final draft
- ✓ 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.

Possible project formats include:

- **Podcast**
- **Infographic**
- **Mini-presentation video**
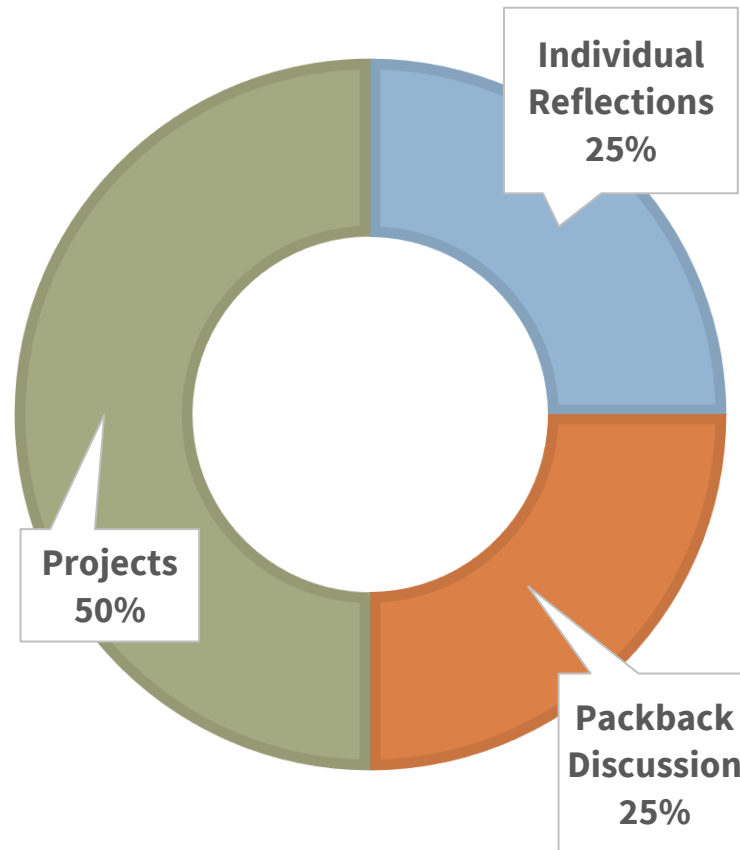- **Social media hashtag campaign**

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 25%

Projects 50%

Packback Discussion 25%

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

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

Deadlines and Due Dates

- No course meetings
- Firm assignment deadlines

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*.
- Please manually set your D2L emails to forward to your @msu.edu email (in D2L email settings)
- Know how to check for announcements and messages in D2L.
- Additional software accessible through D2L.

Limits to Confidentiality

Please note that **the instructor of this course and the graduate TAs 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!

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 to ask your peers and me!

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. If accessing external resources like Packback presents a financial barrier for you, please reach out to help@packback.co and ask for their financial assistance options. I have ensured they are willing and able to support students facing financial strain. I have also been compiling resources to help with your projects that are free (e.g., creating infographics, etc.)

Weekly Schedule

I recommend maintaining a weekly schedule of activities for this and any other online courses. It can be extra difficult for some students to hold themselves accountable in fully online, asynchronous courses. The schedule below is just a suggestion, but I recommend sticking to something that works for you and spreads out the work.
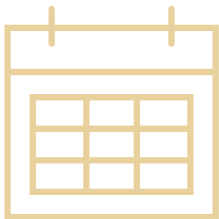
Monday: Read, annotate
Tuesday: Mini-lecture, Packback question
Wednesday: ~270 break~
Thursday: Packback respond and reply
Friday: Project/Reflection

How to Email

Email announcements will be sent to you through D2L. Check your email and D2L regularly for updates. It may be helpful to 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 in a timely manner to the other instructors and your classmates. Please consider emailing the TAs first. If you need to reach out with a question via email, include 'Psy 244' in your subject line so we can easily find your emails in our inboxes. Please write your email in a professional manner (i.e., greeting, complete sentences, 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.

Personal Success

Please utilize me as a resource to help you succeed, both in class and outside class. I want you to get an A 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/Student-Advocates-for-Basic-Needs-Security.

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
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	**Reflection #1 due (topic from Wk 2-4)**
5	9/28	**Methods**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Mental Health	
6	10/05	**Interventions**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Children, Youth, & Families	
7	10/12	**Prevention & Promotion**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Substance Use	**Reflection #2 due (topic from Wk5-7)**
8	10/19	**Community Organizing**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Immigrant Justice	***Project 1 Deadline***
9	10/26	**Behavioral Community Approaches & Public Policy**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Education	
10	11/02	**Dissemination & Implementation**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Healthcare	**Reflection #3 due (topic from Wk8-10)**
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*	Personal Health Week	
14	11/30	**Practice Competencies**	Packback Discussion
		Spotlight Topic: Housing	**Reflection #4 due (topic from Wk11-14)**
15	12/07	**Your Future**	Packback Discussion
16	12/14	**Finals Week**	***Project 2 Deadline***

*Short week

**Remember, you must complete 4 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.