

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FUNDAMENTALS

SYLLABUS

Summer 2004 First Session June 21—July 23	Faculty: Simona Sharoni Email: sharonis@evergreen.edu Tel: 360-867-6196
Classroom: SEM 2 D 1107	Office hours: Mon & Wed 5-6PM

I. CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this class, students will familiarize themselves with the history, theories and actual skills associated with community organizing. Students will acquire basic knowledge about the daily operations, long-term objectives and challenges facing community organizations in our area. Central topics of exploration include: grant writing and fundraising, project planning and implementation, community outreach and coalition-building and work with the media and politicians.

II. REQUIRED TEXTS

- Paul Mattenssich and Barbara Monsey, (eds.) Community Building: What Makes It Work – A review of factors influencing successful community organizing
- Neve Welton and Linda Wolf, (eds.) Global Uprising: Confronting the Tyrannies of the 21st Century – Stories from a new generation of activists
- John Kretzmann and John McKnight, (eds.) Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets

III. WEEKLY OUTLINES

Week 1, June 21-23 Community Organizing: The Personal is Political
Week 2: June 28—30 Building Organizations' Capacity, Mobilizing Resources
Week 3: July 5—7 Building Individuals' Capacity: Experience and Skills
Week 4: No regular classes. Students meet to work on group projects and presentations
Week 5: July 19—21 Transforming Communities from the Inside Out

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

1. Regular Attendance

Because this class involves experiential learning, which cannot be reproduced if missed, students are expected to attend ALL class sessions, arrive on time and leave when class ends.

2. Reflective Essay

Reflect in writing on your interest in community organizing. Describe your past experience and outline your expectations from this class.

1-2 double-spaced typed pages.

Due June 23.

3. Profile of a Community Organizer

This assignment is designed to acquaint you with community organizers and leaders. Based on a meeting and a conversation with the person you chose, you are expected to create a profile of an individual, describing their work and critically examining its contribution. You can consult the text *Global Uprising* for examples of such profiles.

2-3 double-spaces typed pages.

Due July 7.

4. Analysis of a Community Organization – Group Project

This assignment is designed to examine the applicability of theories about community organizing and development to local organizations and to provide you with an opportunity to improve your ability to work in a team. In groups of 2-3, you will choose an organization and analyze its work and efficacy based on questions and criteria developed in class.

2-3 double-spaced typed pages.

Due July 19.

5. Project/grant Proposal – Group Project

Based on your analysis of the community organization, develop a draft project proposal or grant proposal designed to enhance the work of the organization.

3-5 double-spaced typed pages.

Due July 19.

V. WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Week 1 Community Organizing: The Personal is Political

Date	Monday, June 21	Wednesday, June 23
Topics	Introduction to community organizing	Activism with a human face
Readings Due	---	<i>Global Uprising</i>
Assignments Due	---	Reflective Essay

Week 2 Building Organizations' Capacity, Mobilizing Resources

Date	Monday, June 28	Wednesday, June 30
Topics	Theories and models of community organizing	The political economy of community organizing
Readings Due	<i>Community Building</i>	<i>Building Communities from the inside out</i> , ch. 4-6
Assignments Due	---	---

Week 3 Building Individuals' Capacity: Experience and Skills

Date	Monday, July 5	Wednesday, July 7
Topics	No Class. Campus Holiday	Organizing skills
Readings Due	---	<i>Building Communities from the inside out</i> , ch 1
Assignments Due	---	Profile of a community organizer

Week 4

No regular classes. Students meet to work on group projects and presentations

Week 5 Transforming Communities from the Inside Out

Date	Monday, July 19	Wednesday, July 21
Topics	Building and sustaining community coalitions	Group presentations
Readings Due	<i>Building Communities from the inside out</i> , ch 2-3	---
Assignments Due	Analysis of a community organization –group papers Project/grant proposal	Draft self-evaluation

