

Socy 49.16 -- Community: Analysis & Action

Course Description: This course will examine the idea of a safe, inclusive community and how it might be realized on a college campus. We will examine the tremendous changes that a society experiences as it moves from a social order based mainly on face-to-face interactions and obligations to one based on anonymous market forces, bureaucratic state power and virtual relationships. And we will look at how communities have endured despite these changes. We will look at the advantages and disadvantages of communities today, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of our longing for community. We will look at the practices that undermine community and the practices that support community. Finally, we will engage in action-oriented research projects concerned with community at Dartmouth.

The goal of this class is to help students to examine their own community in a meaningful and thoughtful way and to understand that a college community is a difficult and complex accomplishment. The idea behind this class is that effective change comes from students who have been given the tools to understand their own situation.

Grades: Your grade will be determined according to the following formula:

Reading Points	10%
Reading Point Tests	30% (2 x 15%)
Community & Society @ Dartmouth Paper	15%
Inhibiting Community Paper	20%
Policy Project	25%

Incompletes will only be given when the student is otherwise passing the course and cannot complete it due to circumstances that are unforeseen and beyond the student's control.

Reading Points: For each reading, I will provide a set of questions that you should be prepared to answer when called on in class. Only students called on in class will be graded on that day. If you are absent the day that I call on you without a university defined excuse, you will receive an 'F'. Since each student is likely to be called on only 5 or 6 times, it is important that you be prepared for every class. I will give everyone one 'free pass' for the term on reading points. In other words, you can let me know that you will be unprepared to answer the points for that day. However, **you must do this before class starts**, either by email, in person, or phone. You will not be given a free pass after I have called on you.

Reading Point Tests: There will be two short, written tests over the reading points. The final test will not be cumulative. The first test will be on Fri. 7/18. The second at the time of our final 8/24 at 8:00 am

Written Assignments: There will be three written assignments for this class.

Community & Society @ Dartmouth: 6-8 page paper using class readings to analyze how the mix of community and society stand at Dartmouth today. This paper will involve semi-structured interviews with members of the Dartmouth community. In this paper, we simply try to inform ourselves about the multiple perspectives that make up Dartmouth and the multiple visions of community.

Inhibiting Community: 6-8 page paper using class readings and library research to analyze a social structure or practice that undermines community. We empower ourselves when we understand how some structures or practices can take power away from some members of the community. This will be due by 8/11

Policy Project: 8-10 page paper using class readings, library research and ethnographic investigation to analyze practices and make policy recommendations for promoting community at Dartmouth. For this paper, students will research and write about something that they will take responsibility for. The student should understand themselves as having an active role in building the Dartmouth community, but at the same time they should be aware of the larger political, economic and social contexts that may also be a source of power or disempowerment.

Complete descriptions and the criteria for grading will be posted on Blackboard.

Help

Office hours in Silsby 012 are Mon, Wed & Fri from 12:30 to 1:30. If those times don't work, I'm happy to make an appointment. Messages can be left for me in the Sociology office. I can be reached for help by phone (857.399.6137) or email (Douglas.J.Goodman@Dartmouth.edu). I check my email often and it is my preferred mode of communication.

Students who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to see me privately as early as possible. Students requiring accommodations must register with the Student Accessibility Service office. If students have questions about whether they qualify to receive accommodations, they should contact the SAS office.

Schedule

This schedule is provisional. The most current schedule will be on Canvas

Defining the Problem & Defining the Concept

Fri. 6/20

Intro

Sat. 6/21

Keller, Suzanne. 2005. "Community: The Passionate Quest"

Le Guin, Ursula. 1973. "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"

Mon. 6/23

Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling Alone"

Wed. 6/25

Wuthnow, Robert. 1999. "The Culture of Discontent"

Trevino, A. Javier. 2000. "Sharing Democracy's Community"

Fri. 6/27

Wuthnow, Robert. 2002. "Loose Connections"

Mon. 6/30

Plant, Raymond. 1978. "Community: Concept, Conception and Ideology"

Wed. 7/2

Goodman 2014. "Meanings of Community"

Mannarini, T. & A. Fedi. 2009. "Multiple Senses of Community"

Mon. 7/7

Work on Community & Society @ Dartmouth Paper

Wed. 7/9

Community & Society @ Dartmouth Paper Due

"Community Properly Understood," Bellah, R.

Fri. 7/11

Fukuyama, Francis. 2000. *The Great Disruption*.

Mon. 7/14

Sennett, Richard. 2000. *The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism*.

Wed. 7/16

Little, Adrian. 2002. *The Politics of Community*.

Fri. 7/18

Midterm

Mon. 7/21

Nisbet, Robert. 2010. *The Quest for Community*.

Wed. 7/23

Wolfe, A. 1989. "Market, State, Society as Codes of Moral Obligation"

Hollenback, David. 1994 "Virtue, the Common Good and Democracy"

Fri. 7/25

Norris, Pippa. 2012. "The Bridging and Bonding Role of Online Communities"

Sunstein, Cass. 2009. *Republic.com 2.0*

Pew Research. 2014 "Mapping Twitter Topic Networks: From Polarized Crowds to Community Clusters."

Mon. 7/28

Gitlin, Todd. 1996. *The Twilight of Common Dreams*.

Wed. 7/30

Bellah, Robert. 1998. Is There a Common American Culture?"

Fischer, Claude. 1998. "Uncommon Values, Diversity and Conflict in City Life."

Fri. 8/1

Tannen, Deborah. 1998. *The Argument Culture*.

Bennett, W. Lance. 2011. "What's Wrong With Incivility?"

Eliasoph, Nina. 2011. "The Culture of Political Avoidance."

Mon. 8/4

Boyer, Ernest. 1990. *Campus Life: In Search of Community*.

Wed. 8/6

Boyer, Ernest. 1990. *Campus Life: In Search of Community*.

Fri. 8/8

hooks, bell. 2003. *Teaching Community*.

West, Cornel. 2000. *The New Cultural Politics of Difference*.

Mon. 8/11

Paper due

Wed. 8/13

Student Chosen Readings

Fri. 8/15

Student Chosen Readings

Mon. 8/18

Student Chosen Readings

Wed. 8/20

Student Chosen Readings

Final: 8/25 3:00 pm