

Georgia Institute of Technology
Community Development: Theory, History, and Practice

Instructor Information: Asst. Prof. Harley Etienne

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Course Description: The major focus of this class will be the theory, history and practice of community development in the context of inner city communities in the United States. This course will review federal and municipal policy and trends that have affected community development efforts over the past 50 years. The course will also review the larger historical trajectory of U.S. cities and their respective communities from decline to recovery as well as the community-focused efforts employed in their revival.

Expectations and evaluation:

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| In-Class Presentations | 25% |
| Class Participation | 25% |
| Analytic Paper Proposal | 10% |
| Analytic Paper | <u>40%</u> |
| Final Grade Value | <u>100%</u> |

In-Class Presentations: Each class session will be led by a team of students who will present their perspectives and analysis of that day's assigned readings. Assignments will be made on a first-come, first serve basis. Depending on enrollment, students should expect to lead at least two course sessions. I will lecture throughout the semester to clarify key points, arguments and ideas presented by the readings or class presentations.

In addition to leading specific course sessions, students enrolled in this course will prepare a 300-500 word review essay on the assigned readings for the class(es) they lead. A hard copy of this essay will be submitted to me by each individual student presenter on the day that they present. Regardless of the number of times a student serves as discussion leader, the total value of this portion of the final grade will remain 25%. Discussion leaders may choose to use their essay as a discussion piece or heuristic device during class.

Analytical Paper: Students will be expected to complete an analytical paper on a one substantive area within the area of community development. Papers should adhere to standard style guidelines (MLA, APA, Turabian) and meet the standards of graduate student writing. This paper is intended to inform your option paper/thesis or advanced study beyond the M.C.R.P./M.S.P.P. Students will be expected to complete and submit a proposal of this paper before the fall break.

Topics Covered:

1. Defining the Topic
2. Community Development and Neighborhood Change
3. Understanding the Trajectory of the Community Development Movement
4. Sociological Explanations of Persistent Urban Poverty
5. Consequences and Manifestations of Persistent Urban Poverty
6. Urban Renewal and the Great Society
7. Assessing the Impact of Federal Programs and Efforts
8. Community Development Block Grants / Community Reinvestment Act
9. Revitalization as Community Development Policy
10. What's so Great about "Community"? Responding to Policy Failure
11. Community Organizing
12. Community Development as an Industry and System
13. Multi-Scalar Analysis of Community Development and Urban Revitalization
14. Enterprise and Empowerment Zones
15. Private Investment and Policy
16. Safety and Community Development
17. Community Development Corporations/CBOs
18. The Political Economy of Race and Class in Community Development
19. New Urbanism: Designing Our Way Out of the Problem
20. Social and Political Capital in Community Development
21. Case Studies in Municipal Level Programs & Efforts
22. Gentrification and Community Development/Revitalization