

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: SO 224: Sociology of the Community

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: SO 201

Description:

The sociology of community is designed to provide an overview of the basic sociological concepts and theories around the topic of community as a social construct. In order to be civically engaged, citizens must have a general understanding of the value and purpose of community as a means of social interaction and the connection between the self and the complex phenomenon of “community”. Students will learn how the community can be engaged, empowered and organized for social change by reviewing numerous examples from across the nation. Finally students will be able to participate in community dialogue through a better understanding of their own community. Students will hone their sociological imagination as they address the issues and scholarship related to this course.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Express a sociological perspective of the factors associated with community emergence, vitality, disorganization and decline
- Investigate community and neighborhood as environments for social interaction, organization and action
- Develop an awareness of the contemporary social and economic issues in Cumberland County
- Explore the ways in which industrialization , structural change, globalization and other factors have differentially affected rural and urban communities
- Demonstrate an increased awareness of the cultural diversity and potential networking of social groups through community
- Reflect on community needs through experiential learning

Topical Outline:

- Definitions of community
- Social Capital-Why is Community Important?
- Empowerment, Community Building, Community Organizing
- Political Intervention and Social Justice in Communities
- Neighborhoods as Building Blocks
- Civic Participation and Engagement
- Experiential Learning as a Means of Increased Community Awareness

Text: Erikson, Kai, T., (1976). *Everything in its Path*. NY: Simon and Shuster.

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

### **Before Withdrawing From This Course**

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.