

**Appalachian State University
Department of Geography & Planning**

Fall 2014

PLN 4470/5470: Community Development

Course Syllabus

Administrative Information

Instructor: Ric Kolenda
Time: TR 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Location: Rankin Science West 279
Office Hours: MW 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; TR 10 – 11 a.m.; F 9 – 11 a.m. (online) or by appt.
Office: Rankin Science West 361
Email: kolendars@appstate.edu
Phone: (828) 262-7057

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If a change does occur, sufficient notice will be given through AsULearn and class announcements.

Course Description

This course introduces students to conventional and alternative approaches to community development. Students will have the opportunity to study aims and strategies employed by community development professionals, activists, and community members in urban and rural settings. Topics for reading and discussion included: poverty and race, affordable housing, economic revitalization, environmental justice, and public participation in planning.

The organizing theme of the course this semester will be inequality at the community level.

Course Materials

Required Text:

Robinson, Jerry W. & Green, Gary Paul, Eds. 2011. *Introduction to Community Development: Theory, Practice, and Service Learning*, 1st Ed. Los Angeles: Sage.

Other readings will be available online and/or posted on **AsULearn**.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Class sessions will be a mixture of lectures, class exercises and discussions. Additional readings and course materials will be provided on AsULearn. Course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Midterm Exams (2 @ 20% each)	40%
2. Issue Paper	20%
3. Group Community Needs Assessment (UG) <i>or</i> Community Development Project (GR)	30%
4. Class Attendance & Participation	10%

Graded Assignments

The **Issue Paper** on a community development issue of the student’s choosing will be submitted in four (4) sections throughout the semester. It is worth 20% of the total grade.

The **Midterm Examinations** will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true-false, short answer and essay questions. They will draw on the class lectures and readings, and require students to assimilate materials learned throughout the first portion of the course. It is worth 25% of the total grade. Make-up exams or alternatives for excused absences will be solely at the discretion of the instructor. It is worth 25% of the total grade.

Group Assignments

Undergraduate students will do a **Group Community Needs Assessment**, for which you will work in teams to assess the needs of a local community based on one of the approaches discussed in class. The results will be presented in class during the last week of class. You will be evaluated on your individual contributions, the group product, the individual and group presentations, and your peer evaluations. Details and group assignments will be forthcoming in class and on AsULearn. It is worth 30% of the total grade.

Graduate students will produce a proposal for a **Community Development Project**, for which you will work in team(s) to design a community development project for a local community. The results will be presented in class during the last week of class. You will be evaluated on your individual contributions, the group product, the individual and group presentations, and your peer evaluations. Details and group assignments will be forthcoming in class and on AsULearn. In addition, graduate students will be responsible for leading the discussion on one of the topics from chapters 11-17 in the text. Together these are worth 30% of the total grade.

Class participation is an important part of this course. Participation means that you actively engage in classroom discussions and in-class assignments.

Student attendance is mandatory, and more than three (6) absences can be grounds for failure. Please consult with the instructor if you are in danger of getting a seventh absence. It is recognized that students may be unable to attend class as a result of observance of recognized religious holidays of the student’s faith, serious illness, or family emergencies. In such cases, students are responsible for informing the instructor (in advance if possible),

getting any missed material, and obtaining class notes and announcements from other students.

Make-up exams will only be given for extraordinary conditions, and only at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments are due by the beginning of class or by the specified time via AsULearn. If you have materials that are hard-copy only, they must be turned in on time as well. Late assignments will be graded down substantially, and a passing grade will not be assigned unless all assignments are completed.

Reports and exams are due by the beginning of class or by the specified time via AsULearn. If you have materials that are hard copy only, they must be turned in on time as well. Late assignments will be graded down substantially, and a passing grade will not be assigned unless all assignments are completed.

Extra Credit: From time to time, the instructor may offer the students opportunities to earn extra credit points on existing or for additional assignments. In addition, you are also encouraged to bring in newspaper and magazine articles related to current community development issues up to three (3) times a semester. These articles can be on issues from anywhere in the world, but it is important that during the course of the semester everyone gets a sense of how public policy analysis works in the real world. Please email me at least 24 hours before class with your intention to present an article, including the title and a link to the article. No more than three (3) articles will be presented in each class, and will be chosen on a first-come first-served basis. Only one (1) article per person per class session. Extra credit points will be granted as following:

- 1 Article = 4 percentage points toward your final grade
- 2 Articles = 7 percentage points toward your final grade
- 3 Articles = 9 percentage points toward your final grade

For example, if your other assignments add up to 88% of 100% of the final grade, and you present 2 articles during the semester, your final grade will be based on 95% of 100%. Extra credit is not guaranteed, however, and will be offered only at the discretion of the instructor.

University & Course Policies

Academic Integrity

As a community of learners at Appalachian State University, we must create an atmosphere of honesty, fairness, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of each other. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an Appalachian degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form and will oppose any instance of academic dishonesty. This course will follow the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found on the Office of Student Conduct Web Site: <http://www.studentconduct.appstate.edu>.

Statement on Student Engagement with Courses

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at “providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers” as well as “maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students.” Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian

students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Disability Services

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

Religious Observances Policy

Faculty members are required to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays. All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term “religious observance” to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student’s faith that require absence from class. Faculty, at their discretion, may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student's final grade in the course. On the first day of class, faculty must inform students of their class attendance policy and the effect of that policy on their final grade; both policies must be clearly stated in the class syllabus.

Course Policies

In addition to these university-wide policies, the following apply to this course:

- (1) This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Guest lectures and field trips might be scheduled along the way and students will be notified in advance.
- (2) When communicating via email or voicemail, please be sure to include the following information: full name, course name, course & section number.
- (3) All general questions regarding assignments and exams will be posted on the appropriate discussion forum in AsU Learn so that I may answer for the whole class. Only email me directly if you have a question or concern specific to you or your work. Please alert me if I or another student is not able to answer your question in a timely fashion.
- (4) Turn off cell phones and keep them off the desk during lectures. Text messaging during class is strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal.
- (5) Laptops and tablets are allowed for instructional use only; any prohibited uses will be grounds for dismissal.
- (6) Final grades will not be posted or given out over the phone or via email.