



College of Arts/ Social Work Department

# Community Development

## (2025-2026)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Lecturer: Dunya Salahdin Mirdan

[dunya.mirdan@su.edu.krd](mailto:dunya.mirdan@su.edu.krd)

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** Community development has evolved over the past few decades into a recognized discipline of interest to both practitioners and academicians. However, community development is defined in many different ways. Most practitioners think of community development as an outcome – physical, social, and economic improvement in a community – while most experts think of community development as a process – the ability of communities to act collectively and enhancing the ability to do so.

This course will provide social work students the opportunity to have a better understanding to explore, develop, and apply an interdisciplinary set of theories in to their filed of profession. Yet, aiding students with a better understanding to describe the community around.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** Students are expected to gain insights into community development as a dynamic process by which disadvantaged people develop capacity to help improve and control their lives. In order to understand this course, participants are expected to achieve an understanding for the following:

- Explore the concepts of community and community development
- Describe important aspects of community and community development
- Highlight important principle of community development.
- Discuss the term sustainable development and how it applies to community Development
- Discuss and give examples of the different factors which sustain development in KRI.
- Understanding of the nature of community groups and social solidarities.
- Understand the nature and structures of power in society.
- Understand the function of non-profit and other community organizations.

- Understand the ways services (e.g. social, environmental, economic) are provided, and
- Understand the networks that tie community groups to each other in their local area, the region and the globe.

### **STUDENT'S OBLIGATION:**

This course will be a combination methods of interactive lecture, discussion, and debate. **Active participation** in class is very much an essential requirement.

- Attendance is expected at all lectures.
- Read the required articles which are provided on the google classroom prior to attending the classes.
- Be prepared for discussions during the class.
- Punctuality is highly recommended when you are requested any assignment or report.
- All students should use the official university E-mail for any interactions with the teacher.
- All students should be committed to use the Google Class when the course begins.
- Make sure to mute or set your cell phones OFF during the class.

### **Assessments & Exams:**

- 60 % final exam.
- 20% Exam/s will be taken during the semester.
- 20% daily presence, individual/ group works and activities throughout the course.

### **Required Reading:**

- Philips, R. and Pittman, R. H. (2009). An interdiction to community development.
- Ferguson, Ronald and Dickens, William eds, 1999. Urban Problems and Community Development. (Washington DC: Brookings Institution) Chapters 1 and 2.
- Aigner, et al. 2002. "Whole community organizing" in Journal of the Community Development Society. 33:1, 86-105.

Note: Additional books and articles to be provided in the Google Class

Week 1	<b>overview:</b>  Course introduction:
Week 2	<b>Communities and Community Development</b>  - Elias, Norbert. 1974. "Towards a Theory of Communities." Pp. ix–xii in <i>New Sociology Library</i> ; no. 5, <i>The Sociology of Community. A selection of readings</i> , edited by C. Bell, and H. Newby. London: Cass. Bendix,

	- Reinhard. 1993. "Definitions of Community in Western Civilization." Pp. 35–83 in <i>Unsettled Affinities</i> , by R. Bendix. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
Week 3	<b>Economic Development and Communities</b>  Santow, Mark 2007. "Running in Place: Saul Alinsky, Race and Community Organizing" in Marian Orr, eds. <i>Transforming the City: Community Organizing and the Challenge of Political Change</i> . (Lawrence: Kansas University Press)
Week 4	<b>Theories of Community Development I</b>  James. 2001. "The Myth of Social Capital in Community Development." <i>Housing Policy Debate</i> 12:781–806
Week 5	<b>Theories of Community Development II</b>  James. 2001. "The Myth of Social Capital in Community Development." <i>Housing Policy Debate</i> 12:781–806
Week 6	<b>Community Development Foundations</b>  Peterman, William. 2000. "Community Empowerment, Organization, and Development." Pp. 33–61 in <i>Cities &amp; planning series, Neighborhood planning and community based development</i> by W. Peterman. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage
Week 7	<b>Rural Community Development: What (if anything) is different?</b>  Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1991. "Chapter 4. Rural Community Development." Pp. 87– 117 in <i>Contributions in sociology</i> , vol. 95, <i>The community in rural America</i> , by K. P. Wilkinson. New York: Greenwood Press.
Week 8	<b>Building community capacity</b>
Week 9	<b>Community Development Strategies</b>
Week 10	<b>Social planning and Community Mobilization</b>
Week 11	Group Work
Week 12	<b>Climate Change and its impact on community</b>