

SOCIOLOGY OF COMMUNITY
SOC 576
3 credit hours
Spring 2008

Class location: University Center
Class meeting times: W 2:00 – 4:50

Instructor Dr. Gene L. Theodori
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Office hours

Monday/Friday: 11:00 – 12:00; Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:00;
Tuesday/Thursday: by appointment.

Course Description

Sociology of Community is designed for students who are interested in critically examining the concept of community and critiquing the various theories about, practical applications of, research involved in, and possible future scenarios for community. This course will introduce students to relevant theories (both classical and contemporary), measurement issues, statistics, and research methods involved in the study of community. It will include the full range of issues/problems normally encountered in the conduct of research and application of knowledge in this area. The purpose of this course, then, is to provide each student with the broad conceptual and empirically-based perspectives that are appropriate for decision-making and problem-solving associated with community and community-related issues.

Course Objectives

- To promote interest in the scientific study of community;
- To develop skills in conceptualization and analysis of community and community-related issues;
- To develop understanding of basic elements and processes (e.g., social, economic, political, environmental, etc.) of community organization, structure, and operation through review and discussion of theories, methods, and findings of major scientific and case studies of community; and,
- To identify issues in the sociology of community needing research attention.

Required Books

Students are expected to purchase the following books:

de Saint-Exupéry, Antoine. [1943] 2000. *The Little Prince*, translated by Richard Howard. Orlando: Harcourt, Inc. [Available at SHSU bookstore.]

Durkheim, Emile. [1893] 1984. *The Division of Labor in Society*, translated by Lewis A. Coser. New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc. [Available at SHSU Bookstore.]

Tonnies, Ferdinand. [1887] 2002. *Community and Society: Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft*, translated and edited by Charles P. Loomis. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc. [Available at SHSU bookstore.]

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1999. *The Community in Rural America*. Middleton, WI: Social Ecology Press. [Available from instructor. See me for details.]

Requirements and Grading

Part of the tradition of higher education is the need to evaluate performance. Each student's final course grade will be based upon his/her performance on the following requirements:

Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

Regular and punctual class attendance and participation is expected of each student at SHSU. A record of class attendance will be kept and the final course grade will be negatively affected by excessive and/or not excusable absences. Detailed information on the class attendance policy and participation criteria will be provided during the first class meeting.

Two Book Reviews (2 @ 10% each)

Students will be required to write a review of two books.

Book #1: de Saint-Exupéry, Antoine. [1943] 2000. *The Little Prince*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company.

Book #2: Student's choice. Must be approved by instructor.

Group Assignment (3 @ 10% each)

Four assignments will focus on the group process. To successfully complete each assignment will require students to come together and act as a unit. Details on each group assignment (including grading) will be given in class. To adequately complete the assignments, each student will provide an assessment of the efforts/contributions of their colleagues and themselves, as well as an evaluation of overall group success.

Original Research Paper (20%)

The major written assignment will be the preparation of a professionally useful paper on a topic related to the theme of the course (i.e., community, community development,

etc.). Students may take a quantitative, qualitative, or a mixed-methods approach to the research paper. Regardless of the approach, **rigor is required**. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and **fully-referenced**. It is expected that the paper will lead to a presentation at a professional meeting, a journal publication, and/or a thesis/dissertation proposal. My guideline to students on the required length of the paper is straightforward: "Do as much as you must, and as little as you dare."

Mid-Term Examination (20%)

There will be one in-class examination at or near mid-term. The exam will consist of several essay questions.

NOTE: The mid-term exam will not be administered after the scheduled examination date. If a student cannot take the exam on the scheduled examination date, he/she must notify the instructor and make arrangements to take the exam early.

Grades

Grades will be based on a total of 800 points.

720 – 800 = A

640 – 719 = B

560 – 639 = C

480 – 559 = D

0 – 479 = F

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

A classroom serves as a backdrop for interaction between instructor and student and between/among students. Facts and opinions rooted in knowledge are exchanged in a classroom; opinions rooted in ignorance should not be shared.

Students are expected to act professionally at all times in the classroom. The use of cell phones and other communication devices in the classroom is prohibited. The instructor reserves the right to ask any student who is 'text messaging' with his/her cell phone to leave the classroom.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

COURSE TOPICS AND PROPOSED READING LIST

WEEK 1 (January 16): Introduction and overview of course

WEEK 2 (January 23): Sociology of Community or Sociology in Community ... or Both? Some Fundamentals ... and/or a Refresher

Theodori, Gene L. 2000. "Levels of Analysis and Conceptual Clarification in Community Attachment and Satisfaction Research: Connections to Community Development." *Journal of the Community Development Society* 31(1): 35-58.

Additional readings may be announced prior to class.

<p>Book Review of <i>The Little Prince</i> due. Discussion of <i>The Little Prince</i>.</p>
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WEEK 3 (January 30): In Search of Community [Group Assignment]

Tonnies, Ferdinand. [1887] 1957. *Community and Society: Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft*, translated and edited by Charles P. Loomis. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc.

Durkheim, Emile. [1893] 1984. *The Division of Labor in Society*, translated by Lewis A. Coser. New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Simmel, Georg. [1903] 1950. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Pp. 409-424 in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*, edited by K.H. Wolff. New York: The Free Press.

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *American Journal of Sociology* 44: 1-24.

WEEK 4 (February 6): Theoretical Perspectives of Community: Human Ecology

Park, Robert E. 1926. "The Urban Community as a Spatial Pattern and Moral Order." Pp 3-18 in Burgess (ed.), *The Urban Community*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Park, Robert E. 1936. "Human Ecology." *American Journal of Sociology* 42(1): 1-15.

Hawley, Amos H. 1944. "Ecology and Human Ecology." *Social Forces* 22: 398-405.

Poplin, Dennis E. 1979. "Human Ecology." Pp. 83-199 in *Communities: A Survey of Theories and Methods of Research*. New York: MacMillan.

Haines, Valerie A. 1985. "From Organicist to Relational Human Ecology." *Sociological Theory* 3: 65-74.

Lyon, Larry. 1987. "Chapter 3: The Ecological Approach: Community as a Spatial Phenomenon." Pp. 32-53 in *The Community in Urban Society*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Maines, David R., Jeffery C. Bridger, and Jeffery T. Ulmer. 1996. "Mythic Facts and Park's Pragmatism: On Predecessor-Selection and Theorizing in Human Ecology." *The Sociological Quarterly* 37(3): 521-549.

Micklin, Michael and David F. Sly. 1998. "The Ecological Complex: A Conceptual Elaboration." Pp. 51-66 in *Continuities in Sociological Human Ecology*, edited by Michael Micklin and Dudley Poston. New York: Plenum.

WEEK 5 (February 13): Theoretical Perspectives of Community: Social Systems

Hiller, E.T. 1941. "The Community as a Social Group." *American Sociological Review* 6: 189-202.

Sanders, Irwin T. 1966. "The Community as a Social System: A Preview." Pp. 25–53 in *The Community: An Introduction to a Social System*. New York: The Ronald Press Company.

Warren, Roland L. 1972. "The 'Great Change' in American Communities" (pp. 53-94) and "The American Community as a Social System" (pp. 135-166) in *The Community in America*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Co.

Bates, Frederick L. and Lloyd Bacon. 1972. "The Community as a Social System" *Social Forces* 50: 371-379.

Lyon, Larry. 1987. "Chapter 4: The Community as a Social System." Pp. 54-63 in *The Community in Urban Society*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Dale, Orren, Rebecca Smith, Julia M. Norlin, and Wayne A. Chess. 2006. "A Social Systems Perspective: The Foundations for Social Systems Theory" (pp. 23-47) and "Social Systems Theory: General Features" (pp. 48-69) in *Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Social Systems Theory*. Boston: Pearson.

Week 6 (February 20): Theoretical Perspectives of Community: Interactional Theory

Long, Norton E. 1958. "The Local Community as an Ecology of Games." *American Journal of Sociology* 64: 251-261.

Kaufman, Harold F. 1959. "Toward an Interactional Conception of Community." *Social Forces* 38: 8-17.

Sutton, Willis A. and Jiri Kolaja. 1960. "The Concept of Community." *Rural Sociology* 25: 197-203.

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1970. "The Community as a Social Field." *Social Forces* 48: 311-322.

Franck, Karen A. 1980. "Friends and Strangers: The Social Experience of Living in Urban and Non-Urban Settings." *Journal of Social Issues* 36(3): 52-71.

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1999. "Introduction: Studying the Community in Rural America" (pp 1-10) and "The Community: An Interactional Approach" (pp. 11-36) in *The Community in Rural America*. Middleton, WI: Social Ecology Press.

Week 7 (February 27): Attempts at Defining Community: Mostly Past, a Few Present

Galpin, C.J. 1915. *The Social Anatomy of an Agricultural Community*. Madison, WI: Agriculture Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin, Research Bulletin 34.

Kinneman, John A. 1947. "The Nature of Community" (pp. 3-17) and "Classification of Communities" (pp. 18-36) in *The Community in American Society*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc.

Maclver, Robert M. and Charles H. Page. 1949. "The Community" (pp. 281-309) in *Society: An Introduction Analysis*. New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc.

des Brunner, Edmund and Wilbure C. Hallenbeck. 1955. "The Community" (pp. 158-176) in *American Society: Urban and Rural Patterns*. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Hillery, George A. 1955. "Definitions of Community: Areas of Agreement." *Rural Sociology* 20: 111-123.

Reiss, Albert J. 1959. "The Sociological Study of Communities." *Rural Sociology* 24: 118-130.

Nelson, Lowry, Charles E. Ramsey, and Coolie Verner. 1960. "The Community: Its Structure and Meaning" (pp. 5-32) in *Community Structure and Change*. New York: The MacMillan Company.

Coleman, James S. 1961. "Community Disorganization." Pp. 553-604 in *Contemporary Social Problems: An Introduction to the Sociology of Deviant Behavior and Social Disorganization*, edited by Robert K. Merton and Robert A. Nisbet. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.

Nisbet, Robert A. 1966. "Community" (pp. 47-106) in *The Sociological Tradition*. New York: Basic Books.

Murdock, Steve H. and Willis A. Sutton, Jr. 1974. "The New Ecology and Community Theory: Similarities, Differences, and Convergencies." *Rural Sociology* 39: 319-333.

Sharp, Jeff S. 2001. "Locating the Community Field: A Study of Interorganizational Network Structure and Capacity for Community Action." *Rural Sociology* 66: 403-424.

Delanty, Gerard. 2003. "Conclusion: Theorizing Community Today" (pp. 186-195) in *Community*. London: Routledge.

WEEK 8 (March 5): In-Class Mid-Term Examination

- (March 12): Spring Break – No Class -

WEEK 9 (March 19): Community Development – Part I

Sanders, Irwin T. 1964. "Community Development Programs in Sociological Perspective." Pp. 307-340 in *Our Changing Rural Society*, edited by James H. Copp. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Christenson, James A., Kim Fendley, and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. 1989. "Community Development." Pp. 3-25 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Christenson, James A. 1989. "Themes of Community Development." Pp. 26-47 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Littrell, Donald W. and Daryl Hobbs. 1989. "The Self-Help Approach." Pp. 48-68 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Fear, Frank A., Larry Gamm, and Frederick Fisher. 1989. "The Technical Assistance Approach." Pp. 69-88 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Robinson, Jerry W. 1989. "The Conflict Approach." Pp. 89-116 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1999. "The Rural Urban Variable in Community Research (pp. 37-60); "The Community and Rural Well-Being" (pp. 61-79); "Rural Community Development" (pp. 81-100) in *The Community in Rural America*. Middleton, WI: Social Ecology Press.

Theodori, Gene L. 2005. "Community and Community Development in Resource-Based Areas: Operational Definitions Rooted in an Interactional Perspective." *Society & Natural Resources* 18(7): 661-669.

* Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1970. "Phases and Roles in Community Action." *Rural Sociology* 35: 54-68.

* Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1972. "A Field-Theory Perspective for Community Development Research." *Rural Sociology* 37: 43-52.

* Kaufman, Harold F. 1979. "The Activity Field – A Perspective for Community Development." Pp. 76-89 in *Community Development: Theory and Method of Planned Change*, edited by Dan A. Chekki. Jhandewalan, New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.

* Summers, Gene F. 1986. "Rural Community Development." *Annual Review of Sociology* 12: 347-371.

* Shaffer, Ron and Gene F. Summers. 1989. "Community Economic Development." Pp. 173-195 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

WEEK 10 (March 26): Community Development – Part II

Chapter 1 in *Land-Grant Universities and Extension into the 21st Century*, "What is a Land-Grant College."

Pp. 3-4 in *The Land-Grant Tradition*; "Development of the Land-Grant System: 1862-1994."

Morrill Act 1862: Origin, Scope, Mission, and Philosophy of the Land-Grant System
"Act of July 2, 1862 (First Morrill Act)," Pp. 12-14 in *The Land-Grant Tradition*.

Morrill Act 1890 - Origin, Scope, Mission, and Philosophy of the Land-Grant System
"Act of August 30, 1890 (Second Morrill Act)," Pp. 14-18 in *The Land-Grant Tradition*.

"Appendix 5: The 105 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities" in *Education Through Cooperative Extension*

Hatch Act (1887) and Related Pieces of Legislation - Origin, Scope, Mission, and Philosophy of State Agricultural Experiment Stations

Hatch Act: "Act of 1887 Establishing Agricultural Experiment Stations," Pp. 208-211 in *The Legacy*.

Amended Hatch Act: "Act of 1955 Consolidating the hatch Act and Laws Supplementary Thereto," Pp. 231-236 in *The Legacy*.

Smith-Lever Act (1914) and Related Pieces of Legislation - Origin, Scope, Mission, and Philosophy of Cooperative Extension
Excerpts from *Report of the Country Life Commission and a Special Message from the President of the United States.*

“Appendix 1: Smith-Lever Act (May 8, 1914)” in *Education Through Cooperative Extension.*

“Appendix 2: Smith-Lever Act (Amended November 28, 1990)” in *Education Through Cooperative Extension*

Comer, Marcus M., Thasya Campbell, Kelvin Edwards, and John Hillison. 2006. “Cooperative Extension and the 1890 Land-Grant Institution: The Real Story.” *Journal of Extension* 44(3): <http://www.joe.org/joe/2006june/a4.shtml>.

The Tribal Colleges: Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act of 1994 - Origin, Scope, Mission, and Philosophy of Tribal Colleges Land-Grant Status for Certain Indian Colleges (United States Senate Report)

Additional readings may be announced prior to class.

WEEK 11 (April 2): Social Capital (A Concept Receiving Much Attention ... Maybe Too Much Attention?) [Group Assignment]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. “The Forms of Capital” (translated by Richard Nice). Pp. 241-258 in *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by John G. Richardson. New York: Greenwood.

Coleman, James S. 1988. “Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital.” *American Journal of Sociology* 94(supplement): S95-S120.

Flora, Cornelia Butler, and Jan L. Flora. 1993. “Entrepreneurial Social Infrastructure: A Necessary Ingredient.” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 529(September): 48-58.

Putnam, Robert D. 1995. “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital.” *Journal of Democracy* 6(1): 65-78.

Accessed on-line at

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v006/6.1putnam.html.

Putnam, Robert D. 1996. “The Strange Disappearance of Civic America.” *American Prospect* (winter): 34-38.

Accessed on-line at <http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V7/24/putnam-r.html>.

Flora, Cornelia Butler, and Jan L. Flora. 1996. "Creating Social Capital." Pp. 217-225 in *Rooted in the Land: Essays of Community and Place*, edited by Vitek and Jackson. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Wall, Ellen, Gabriele Ferrazzi, and Frans Schryer. 1998. "Getting the Goods on Social Capital." *Rural Sociology* 63(2): 300-322.

Edwards, Bob and Michael W. Foley. 1998. "Civil Society and Social Capital Beyond Putnam." *American Behavioral Scientist* 42(1): 124-139.

Putnam, Robert D. 2000. "Chapter 1: Thinking about Social Change in America" Pp. 15-28 in *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of the American Community*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

DeFilippis, James. 2001. "The Myth of Social Capital in Community Development." *Housing Policy Debate* 12(4): 781-806.

Flora, C. and Flora J. 2003. "Social Capital." Pp. 214-227 in Brown and Swanson (eds.), *Challenges for Rural America in the Twenty-First Century*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Luloff, A.E. and Jeffrey C. Bridger. 2003. "Community Agency and Local Development," pp. 203-213 in Brown and Swanson (eds.), *Challenges for Rural America in the Twenty-First Century*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Agnitsch, Kerry, Jan Flora, and Vern Ryan. 2006. "Bonding and Bridging Social Capital: The Interactive Effects on Community Action." *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society* 37(1): 36-51.

Bridger, Jeffrey C. and Theodore R. Alter. 2006. "Place, Community Development, and Social Capital." *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society* 37(1): 5-18.

WEEK 12 (April 9): Natural Resource/Environmental Problems and Community
Cottrell, W. Frederick. 1951. "Death by Dieselization: A Case Study in the Reaction to Technological Change." *American Sociological Review* 16:358-365.

Luloff, A.E., Richard S. Krannich, Gene L. Theodori, Carla Koons Trentelman, and Tracy Williams. 2004. "The Use of Community in Natural Resources." Pp. 249-259 in *Society and Natural Resources: A Summary of Knowledge*, M.J. Manfredo, J.J. Vaske, B.L. Bruyere, D.R. Field, and P.J. Brown (eds.). Jefferson, MO: Modern Litho.

Additional readings may be announced prior to class.

WEEK 13 (April 16): Student's Choice [Group Assignment]

Details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

WEEK 14 (April 23): The Future of Community

Hillery, George A. 1972. "Selected Issues in Community Theory." *Rural Sociology* 37: 534-552.

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1989. "The Future for Community Development." Pp. 337–354 in *Community Development in Perspective*, edited by James A. Christenson and Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. Ames: Iowa State University Press.

Swanson, Louis E. and A.E. Luloff. 1990. "Barriers and Opportunities for Community Development: A Summary." Pp. 228–234 in *American Rural Communities*, edited by A.E. Luloff and Louis E. Swanson. Boulder: Westview Press.

Hosler, William R. 1998. "Building Liveable Communities." *Journal of the Community Development Society* 29: 298–305.

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. 1999. "In Search of the Community in the Changing Countryside" (pp. 101–109) in *The Community in Rural America*. Middleton, WI: Social Ecology Press.

Pigg, Kenneth E. 1999. "Community Leadership and Community Theory: A Practical Synthesis." *Journal of the Community Development Society* 30: 196-212.

WEEK 15 (April 30): Discussion of Book Reviews

Review of second book due

WEEK 16 (May 7): Individual Research Paper Presentations

Individual research paper due

NOTE: This syllabus does not constitute a contract between student and instructor. It may be necessary to change (a) the sequence of topics, (b) the readings (by adding or deleting one or more), (c) the date of the examination, and/or (d) assignment due dates. Any changes will be repeatedly announced in class.