

SOCIOLOGY 396
Reflections on Service-Learning & Community Engagement: A Sociological Perspective
Spring 2022 Syllabus

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Office Hours by Appointment
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1. All students enrolled in PRAC 096 and who are involved in a Service-Learning & Community Engagement (SLCE) experience providing service through a Shriver Center-organized partnership are eligible to enroll in SOCY 396.

SOCY 396 is a 1-3-credit course that is graded **Pass/Fail** through which students may earn upper-level elective credits. The credit may not count toward requirements in Sociology.

SOCY 396 is contingent on the following:

- a. Enrollment is by permission of Michele Wolff, The Shriver Center.
 - b. Students must be placed and enrolled in PRAC 096: Service-Learning & Community Engagement.
2. Course Requirements & Expectations:
 - a. A grade of Pass (P) in SOCY396 is contingent upon successful completion of the required hours of service as documented through PRAC096.
 - b. Students successfully completing SOCY396 will attain a greater understanding of their service-learning experience from a sociological perspective, particularly related to the concept of community, the media's role in society, and the connection of policy to service.
 - c. Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students will:
 - Deepen their reflection on and, therefore their understanding of, concepts such as community, policy, engagement, and service-learning;
 - Enhance their appreciation for others' perspectives through class discussions, including reflections on interactions at their service-learning and community engagement sites;
 - Gain a deeper appreciation for the connection between their community engagement experiences and the assets and challenges in the larger community;
 - Engage in discussions with others more often and more comfortably about the concepts presented in the class;
 - Enhance their ability to explain the lessons they have learned through the course and their community engagement experiences and integrate these lessons to their other life experiences.
 - d. **Schedule and Requirements for SOCY 396:**
To receive a passing grade ('P'), you must attend the following mandatory discussions and complete all stated assignments:

ALL CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE IN-PERSON, AS FOLLOWS:

FEB 28 Review of SOCY396 & SLCE Placements: Expectations & Perceptions

1:00-1:50 --Review course requirements and set goals/expectations

PUP438 --During class - individual and group reflection exercise

MAR 7 Definitions and Contexts: Service-Learning, Community Engagement, and "Community"

1:00-1:50 **Assignment:**

PUP438 --Read and be ready to discuss "Me to We: From Devolved Community to Involved Community" (Frances Moore Lappe' and Paul Martin Du Bois)

--Read and be ready to discuss "Perspectives on Neighborhood and Community: a Review of the Literature" pgs. 521-525 & Conclusion pgs.539-540 (Robert Chaskin, Social Science Review)

--Write out and be ready to discuss your definition(s) of "community". Definitions can come from any source (e.g. your own experience, a textbook, the dictionary). We will discuss these definitions during class.

MAR 14 The Importance of Community and Community Renewal: How do crises change "community"?
1:00-1:50 **Assignment:**
PUP438

--Read and be ready to discuss "Democracy in America" (Alexis de Tocqueville)

--Read and be ready to discuss "Reflections of a New U.S. Citizen" (Eva Paus)

--Read and be ready to discuss "The Culture of Renewal, Part 2: Characteristics of the Community Renewal Movement" (Richard Louv, National Civic Review)

--Read and be ready to discuss "Bowling Alone: Living Alone and Liking It" & "Bowling Together" (Robert D. Putnam)

-- Class discussion: How have the current COVID-19 public health crisis, racial inequities, and the economic crisis changed our perception of community?

Begin to locate, collect, and read a minimum of 5 newspaper or magazine articles that relate to the issue(s) your sponsoring organization is addressing. You will be discussing these articles during our session on Mass Media and Social Issues (on April 11, 2022).

MAR 21 **NO CLASS -- Spring Break**

MAR 28 Reflections on Social Problems and Policy
1:00-1:50 **No assignment to prepare for class**
PUP438

APR 4 Voting and Volunteerism: A Look at Different Forms of Engagement

1:00-1:50 **Assignment:**

PUP438

--Read and be ready to discuss: 1) "Why Young People are Volunteering in Record Numbers," from CIRCLE; 2) "Is There a Crisis of Civic Engagement?" from From Inspiration to Participation: A Review of Perspectives on Youth Civic Engagement; 3) "Reflections on the Center of the Civic," by Timothy Eatman

APR 11 The Mass Media and Social Issues

1:00-1:50 **Assignment:**

PUP438

--Be ready to present a summary of each of your 5 newspaper or magazine articles (that can come from online sources) related to the issue(s) your sponsoring organization is addressing.

--Read and be ready to discuss: "APA Resolution on Violent Video Games," American Psychological Association, February, 2020.

APR 18 Community Mapping: An Assets-Based Approach to Perceptions of Community

1:00-1:50 **You do not have to prepare any materials prior to this class.**

PUP438

APR 25 Preconceived Notions & Stereotypes

1:00-1:50 **In class reading and reflection – no preparation prior to this class.**

PUP438

MAY 2 From Service to Advocacy: Becoming an Agent of Social Change; What's Next for You as an
1:00-1:50 Advocate?
PUP438 -- Read and be ready to discuss "Service: Getting Involved" from College: The Undergraduate Experience in America (Ernest L. Boyer)

MAY 9 Semester Reflection
1:00-1:50 --Changing Perceptions/Wrap-up
PUP438 **No assignment to prepare for class**

Attendance at all discussions is mandatory (unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor) and all assigned readings/assignments must be completed prior to discussions.

****For the SP2022 semester:** Students registering for SOCY396 for **1 credit** must attend the February 28, March 7, March 14, April 25, and May 9 discussions; all other scheduled discussions are optional. Please be prepared with any required materials for these discussions as stated in your syllabus.

****For the SP2022 semester:** Students registering for SOCY396 for **2 credits** must attend the February 28, March 7, March 14, March 28, April 18, April 25, and May 9 discussions; all other scheduled discussions are optional. Please be prepared with any required materials for these discussions as stated in your syllabus.

Course Expectations:

Completion of the following is required to receive a passing grade (P):

- Attendance at all required sessions (please be on time to join class sessions; if you are more than 20 minutes late, you will have to do make-up work for that class)
- Participation in discussions (small and large group)
- Completion of assigned readings and other assignments as stated on the syllabus

PLEASE REFER TO THE SOCY396 ADDENDUM FOR RESOURCES AND POLICIES FOR STUDENTS