

Midstate College
411 West Northmoor Road
Peoria, Illinois 61614
(309) 692.4092 800.251.4299
Fall Term 2018

Course Number and Name: LSJ 325 – Community Organizing/Community Law

Credit Hours: 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Method of Delivery: eLearning Course with an on-campus component

Course Description: This course provides an examination of community organizing theories and approaches that focus on case studies and hands-on experiences while examining the impact of law and policy related issues on the public.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of LSJ 110 (Introduction to Social Justice) or Permission from Department Director

Text:

Community Organizing: Theory and Practice (1st Edition)

Authors: McKnight, J. & Plummer, J. M.

(ISBN: 9780205516810)

Other Readings: Other readings as assigned and available on MOODLE

Materials needed for this course: The minimum system requirements to complete an eLearning course at Midstate College.

Topics: The following topics will be covered in this course:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation

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3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public
5. Analyze meaningful community service delivery through service learning hours experience

Midstate Grading Scale:

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% to 0%

All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a basic principle of the College's function. Midstate College students are expected to maintain a high level of academic honesty. Contrary actions may result in penalties such as failure of the assignment(s), a lesser grade on assignment(s), failure of the course and/or suspension from the College. The course instructor will review all submitted documents and supporting evidence in connection to the infraction. The course instructor will also review the student's personal file for other notifications of academic dishonesty before determining the level of action to be applied. The course instructor will complete the Academic Dishonesty Report form to document and describe the incident and actions taken, then kept on file. The student may appeal the decision to administration, whose decision will be final.

The following (**plagiarism, cheating, deception, sabotage, computer misuse and copyright infringement**) are included in the actions Midstate College considers behavior contrary to the academic integrity policy; however, the policy is not limited to these examples. Further discussion of consequences regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of Turnitin which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success and Tutoring:

Contact Student Success: Room 110; (309) 692-4092, ext. 1100;
studentsuccess@midstate.edu;

The Office of Student Success offers help in the following areas:

- **Tutoring:** Tutoring is encouraged for students who are doing their best to complete assignments yet still are experiencing difficulty in this course. Tutoring may be provided by the instructor outside of scheduled class times or through the office of Student Success.
- **Writing assignment assistance:** This may include learning how to conduct research; using proofreading tools such as Turnitin; outlining a topic; and applying MLA/APA standards.
- **Math, accounting, and computer skills (including file management).**

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- Test-taking techniques.
- Note-taking skills development.
- Study skills development.
- Time management.

Assessment Portfolio Reminder: Students (depending on your program major) may be required to prepare an assessment portfolio for graduation. Keep a copy of this syllabus in the portfolio. Use the “Evidence for Success” list from your program portfolio (or consult your Program Director) and instructions from the instructor to determine the assignment(s) that should be placed in the assessment portfolio.

Instructor Information:

Instructor’s Name: Scott L. Michalec-Adjunct Associate Professor

Midstate College Phone: (309) 692-4092

Midstate College Fax: (309)-692-3893

Instructor’s email: smichalec@midstate.edu

Office Hours: I will be on campus on Tuesdays from 5:30 PM through 6:15 PM. I am also available by appointment outside of the office time. You may also email me if you want to request an on-campus meeting at another time.

Participation Requirements: You are expected to participate **at least two** days a week in several conference discussions / homework assignments relating to the subject materials for the week. You **will be required** to participate in the group discussion forum *substantively at least two times* each week. Discussions will take place in the online discussion forum as assigned by the faculty member in the course syllabus. You will read, analyze, and respond to questions and comments from the instructor and fellow students. When applicable, include page numbers from assigned readings or other sources to cite supporting documentation. All posts should advance the discussion and deepen academic inquiry. **PLEASE NOTE:** Substantive participation requires original thought and application to the threads and student posts. Participation in the “General Discussion” thread each week – which generally is a place for students and the instructor to ‘chat,’ not engage in class material – **does not** count toward substantive participation. Congratulatory,

“I agree,” and/or praising sentences – while encouraged – do not count toward substantive participation either. **Due to the structure of this course based on student-centered learning with a large emphasis on group discussion, if discussion requirements are not being met the instructor will first notify the student that more participation is required, and if the student does not comply the instructor will recommend the student be withdrawn from the course.**

Examination Information: There will be 2 examinations administered in this class.

1. **Midterm Examination** - will consist of 100 points and it will cover the chapters as indicated in the Course Outline. It will be available **Monday, September 24th at 12:00 PM** and it is due by **Monday, October 1st at 8:00 AM**.
2. **Final Examination** - will consist of 100 points and it will cover the chapters as indicated in the Course Outline. It will be available **Monday, November 5th at 12:00 PM** and it is due by **Monday, November 12th at 8:00 AM**. **(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DUE DATE MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN IN OTHER MIDSTATE COURSES!).**

Methods of evaluating student performance: Please see “Instructor Final Grade Determination” below for more information.

Late Policy: All work must be submitted on time (by the assignment due date). Late work will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (arrangements must be made **prior to** the assignment due date). Approval for accepting late work is at the discretion of the instructor and will **only** be granted for extenuating circumstances. If late work is accepted, late penalties will apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: eLearning students must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as “Present” for the week.

Instructors Grading Scale: The following assignments and activities are outlined in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due by

either day 5 or day 7 and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module:

Day 1 = Monday

Day 2 = Tuesday

Day 3 = Wednesday

Day 4 = Thursday

Day 5 = Friday

Day 6 = Saturday

Day 7 = Sunday

Instructor's Final Grade Determination: Your final grade in this course will be based on **750** points: There will be five Critical Thinking Responses due during the semester as indicated on the class schedule. Students will also be required to complete a Meeting Analysis and a Service Learning Project with an **in-class component**. **PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE MANDATORY IN-CLASS COMPONENT AND MAKE PROVISIONS NOW TO BE AVAILABLE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30th, AT 6:00PM!** Guidelines and details for all assignments will be posted on MOODLE as they become due. Additionally, students will be expected to participate in group discussions having demonstrated they have read the material assigned. Points will be earned each week for group discussion participation and contributions. We will be engaging in group discussions over our reading material for the week along with any special readings and any documentaries that we view. Grading points are as follows:

1. Critical Thinking Responses: 100 points (20 points each x 5 responses)
2. Meeting Analysis: 50 points
3. Midterm Exam: 100 points
4. Final Exam: 100 points
5. Servicing Learning Project: 200 points
6. Group participation: 200 points (20 points each week X 10 weeks)
7. TOTAL POINTS: **750 points**

NOTE: All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Course Policies and Procedures:

1. **eLearning Sessions:** In accordance with Midstate College policies, class material will be made available on Monday at 12:00 p.m. of that week (see dates in the Course Outline below) and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. You will be required to participate in the group discussion forum **at least two times** each week. This allows students one week to access the lecture and related material for that week's session and participate in the **mandatory** discussion and summary boards.
2. This course is focused on a student-centered approach that emphasizes focused reading and group discussion.
3. **Critical Thinking Responses:** These assignments will supplement the assigned readings and online lectures to further your understanding and application of community organizing and community law. The assignments will be turned in online via Turnitin links on Moodle available each week. A total of **five** responses are required at any time throughout the term. Failure to complete five will result in a zero for each missed response. Instructions for responses will be posted on Moodle. While this is not a composition course, I will be counting off for grammar and spelling errors, run-on sentences, and other writing errors. I expect good quality written assignments!
4. **Meeting Analysis:** Students will be required to attend a meeting of a community organization or some local government meeting, civic body, or neighborhood organization working to improve conditions, policies or services in the community. Student will be required to write a report detailing the meeting and analyzing it according to written guidelines that will be provided on Moodle. (The meeting you attend **can be** connected to your Service Learning Project.)
5. **Service Learning Project:** Instructions for the Service Learning Project will be posted on Moodle along with deadlines. This project has an **in-class component** which will be conducted during Week 11. **We will be meeting ON CAMPUS on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 6:00PM** (room number to be determined).
6. All work must be completed by **Monday, November 12, 2018 at 8:00 AM.**
7. Academic dishonesty (cheating / plagiarism) in any form will not be tolerated in this course and may result in the dismissal/suspension from the

course/program/college. **Do your own work!!** I CANNOT emphasize this enough!! Not knowing the rules of plagiarism is not a valid defense. Check with me if you are not clear on what constitutes plagiarism.

8. This is a tentative syllabus and outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive timely notice of all such changes via announcements made online in Moodle and via email.

Community Organizing/Community Law (LSJ 325)

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Course Outline

This Outline is a guideline that may change as necessary as the quarter/term progresses.

Week 1:

1. Syllabus Review/Course Goals
2. Pre-Test
3. Chapter 1. A Look at Communities
4. Chapter 2. Systems Thinking and the Kaleidoscopic Community

Topics Covered in Week 1:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 1:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments

4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 2:

1. Chapter 7. Participatory Research
2. Chapter 8. Planning and Implementation
3. **Deadline #1** for Service Learning Project
4. Special Reading

Topics Covered in Week 2:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 2:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 3:

1. Chapter 3. Living and Working in Communities
2. Chapter 4. Varieties of Community Organizing
3. **Deadline #2** for Service Learning Project
4. Special Reading

Topics Covered in Week 3:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.

2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 3:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 4:

1. Chapter 5. The Community Organizing Cycle
2. Special Reading

Topics Covered in Week 4:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 4:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments

Week 5:

1. Chapter 6. Building an Effective Leadership Team

2. Special Reading

Topics Covered in Week 5:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 5:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 6:

1. Midterm Exam
2. **Deadline #3** for Service Learning Project

Topics Covered in Week 6:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 6:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation

3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public
5. Analyze meaningful community service delivery through service learning hours experience

Week 7:

1. Chapter 9. Management and Evaluation
2. Special Reading

Topics Covered in Week 7:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 7:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 8:

1. Chapter 10. Organizational Structures, Budgeting, and Funding
2. Chapter 15. Organizations that Support Community Organizing
3. **Meeting Analysis Assignment Due**

Topics Covered in Week 8:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 8:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 9:

1. Chapter 11. Power and Empowerment
2. Chapter 12. Navigating the Political Labyrinth

Topics Covered in Week 9:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 9:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments

4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 10:

1. Chapter 13. Value Systems and Ethics
2. Chapter 14. Community Organization with Web-based Tools

Topics Covered in Week 10:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 10:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public

Week 11:

1. **In-class Service Learning Project Oral Presentations (Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 6:00PM – room number to be determined)**
2. Service Learning Project Critical Reflection paper due

Topics Covered in Week 11:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.

3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 11:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public
5. Analyze meaningful community service delivery through service learning hours experience

Week 12:

1. Final Exam

Topics Covered in Week 12:

1. The development and assessment of communities and human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. The planning, creation, implementation, and assessment of the leadership team in community organizing.
3. The political, financial, and legal considerations in community service organizing.

Objectives Covered in Week 12:

1. Examine the community developmental theoretical frameworks for human services in the United States through legal/public policy.
2. Examine effective methods of human services design and implementation
3. Analyze the methods for the collection and utilization of community needs assessments
4. Identify effective methods of communication while building rapport and conflict resolution with clients and public