

INTS 3900-01

Fall Semester 2013

Interdisciplinary Topics: Community

DSU Main Campus ~ CRN# 46651 ~ Blended/Hybrid
Course

W 9-9:50am NPlaza 113B

Professor Mark Jeffreys

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Office: North Plaza 125C, M-R mornings & afternoons by
appointment

INTS 3900: Community will examine the phenomenon of community stability and cohesion in the face of technological, demographic, and socioeconomic threats. The grounding source material for this examination will be our textbook, which presents sociologist Robert Sampson's long-term study of what he terms "enduring neighborhood effects" and the importance of "collective efficacy" in inner-city Chicago neighborhoods from the early '90s to the present. However, we are using Sampson's work as a jumping-off point from which we can consider whether similar principles apply to a wide range of other kinds of communities, including rural villages, reservations, university campuses, and corporations. In considering community stability so broadly, we will range in search of useful insights and findings from disciplines as diverse as anthropology, history, geography, economics, and more. Then we will focus on particular issues of interest to you, the students, giving you the opportunity to integrate what we have learned in ways that could tackle real world puzzles and challenges that are relevant to you and your goals.

Required Textbook:

*Great American City: Chicago & the Enduring
Neighborhood Effect*

Robert J. Sampson, U Chicago Press, 2012

(available as ebook, paperback, or hardcover--either online or in DSU bookstore)

Here's the Amazon link:

http://www.amazon.com/Great-American-City-Enduring-Neighborhood/dp/022605568X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1372190914&sr=1-1&keywords=great+american+city

Course Policies

- 1) Be committed to attendance and participation, in class and online.
- 2) Be responsible for readings, written assignments, and presentations.
- 3) Be prepared to discuss readings specifically and, also, to respond in an informed, constructive, and considerate way to your peers and to me during classroom and online discussions, whether your own perspective is the predominant view or one of the exceptions.
- 4) There is no policy for dealing with late work in this class. Students who experience documented emergencies will work out arrangements individually with me, and students who miss class must arrange with other students to get notes. Students who habitually miss class will discover that they have compromised their grades.
- 5) Plan on writing regularly (weekly, at the very least) in your class blogs and commenting often in response to the blog entries of others in the class.
- 6) I expect you to take the course content, methods, and interactions seriously, and I wish for you to be so involved that the whole course becomes fun, to the point where the central theme of this class stays on your mind a great deal of the time other than when you're actually plopped in a desk chair or busy typing at a screen.

Campus Policies

As a public institution of higher learning, we have rules and regulations that we (students, faculty, and staff) must adhere to. Those policies and procedures are outlined in official documents that can be accessed here:

<http://dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/#finals>

In links accessed from that page, you will find information regarding important dates on campus for the semester, the final exam schedule, Writing Center and Disability Resource Center information, and policies and procedures regarding academic integrity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In INTS 3900 students will:

- Explore varying disciplinary perspectives on a topic of general and wide interest.
- Conduct independent and group research into interdisciplinary topics.
- Practice public presentation of ideas and insights.
- Synthesize material from multiple disciplinary perspectives into a more integrated, holistic understanding of complex ideas.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of INTS 3900, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate sufficient understanding of the course subject.
- Recognize and articulate the unique insights into complex issues that various disciplines can provide.
- Understand the importance of integrating knowledge and perspectives from multiple disciplines in order to illuminate complex subjects and problems.
- Compose critical analyses of complex issues that draw on the insights, knowledge, and perspectives of more than one discipline for illumination.
- Synthesize and present research to the academic community in oral and written formats.