SOC 475  
Social, Cultural and Media Studies  
4  
Sociology of Communities  
COURSE NAME/NUMBER  
FACULTY/DEPARTMENT  
UFV CREDITS  
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE  

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course explores a number of different types of communities including neighbourhood, cyber, ethnic, hobby, and professional. Types of communities will be compared, contrasted, and explored in terms of how structures such as formal organizations and leadership promote (or prohibit) social cohesion and the importance of communication, common experience, space and place, and social and cultural capital. Students may conduct their own qualitative research project on a community of their choice in consultation with the instructor.

PREREQUISITES:  
60 university-level credits to include at least 9 credits of Sociology; SOC 255/ANTH 255/MACS 255 (formerly SCMS 255) is recommended.

COREQUISITES:  
PRE or COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):  
(a) Replaces:  
(b) Cross-listed with: 
(c) Cannot take:  

SERVICE COURSE TO:  
(department/program)

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 60  
STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

Length of course:  
Hours per day:  

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:

OTHER:

Maximum enrolment: 25  
Expected frequency of course offerings: Every 2 years  
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)  
☒ Yes  ☐ No

TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

Course designer(s): Chantelle Marlor  
Date approved: March 2010

Department Head: Eric Spalding  
Date of meeting: March 5, 2010

Supporting area consultation (Pre-UPAC)  
Date approved: May 7, 2010

Curriculum Committee chair: John Carroll  
Date approved: May 7, 2010

Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte  
Date of meeting: May 21, 2010

Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UPAC) approval
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Identify various features of communities and their relevance to the existence and perpetuation of communities
- Talk in language used by sociologists to discuss communities
- Explain theoretical ideas developed and used by sociologists to discuss communities
- Apply sociological theories of community to a case study or ethnographic data collected by the student
- Critically discuss similarities and differences between different types of communities (e.g. cyber versus neighbourhood)

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
Lectures, discussion, student presentations, and possibly field trips

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)
- Other (specify): Methods will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
- [Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:
- Data submission #1 (existing materials on community of choice) 5%
- Data submission #2 (transcriptions from two interviews) 15%
- Data submission #3 (field notes from participant observation) 10%
- Presentation 5%
- Feedback for others in their presentations 5%
- Preliminary analysis 25%
- Final report 30%
- Reading reports 5%

COURSE CONTENT:
- [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]
  - Existing examples of community studies
  - Classical and contemporary theories about community
  - Issues about space and place – where communities happen
  - Forms of connection – social capital, cultural capital, shared practices, experience
  - Conditions under which communities form and grow (formal organizations, methods of communication, leadership, shared goals, external pressures, etc.)
  - Pushes and pulls to communities and divisions within communities