

**Capital Community College**  
*Social and Behavioral Sciences Department*  
Course Outline for SOC123: Community Organization

**Instructor's Name:**

**Office Hours:**

**Meeting Time/Day:**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone Number:**

**Credits:** 3 Credits

**Course Description:** A critical analysis and evaluation of the social needs of the community and organizational efforts undertaken by both governmental and private organizations to meet these needs are examined in depth. This course meets the service learning requirement for the social services degree program.

**Course Content and Scope:** This course will be divided into four units:

**Unit 1:** The intent of this unit is to provide the student with an understanding of community organizing as it applies to macro-social work practice. The students will analyze social problems from a macro-social work perspective and learn methods and techniques to solve community problems. Students will learn about leadership styles that are required of a community organizer. A historical analysis related to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States will also be emphasized in this unit.

**Unit 2:** Students will be introduced to theories of communities and the different types of communities that exist in the United States. Students will learn how to conduct action research, a research method utilized by community organizing agencies. Becoming a community organizer and social activist will be critically analyzed in this unit.

**Unit 3:** This unit will explore the dynamics of organizations and the roles of community organizer in social planning, program development, grant writing and administration. Students will be introduced to community problems solving skills.

**Unit 4:** This unit will examine the role of community organizing in relation to social policy and community politics. The future of community organizing in the United States and globally will also be examined.

This course integrates practice methods and skills as they relate to assessment and intervention at the organization and community levels. The course considers models for understanding human service organizations and administrative practice in organizations, and for understanding communities, issues of social stratification, conflict and integration in communities, assessment of community needs, and identification of community resources. Strategies for initiating change in organizations and communities are identified, including different points of intervention, sources of resistance to change, and methods for overcoming such resistance.

### **Required Work and Methods of Grading/Evaluation**

There are four major requirements for the successful completion of this course: attending class lectures, completing a community needs assessment, participating actively thoroughly in class discussions, and receiving passing grades on written assignments.

The course will require students to work in the community conducting a needs assessment and provide 10 hours of community service (service learning) in their area or community of choice.

### **Required Textbook**

Rivera, F.G. and Erlich, J. L. (1998). Community Organizing in a Diverse Society.

Netting, E., Kettner, P. & McMurtry, S. (2004). Social Work Macro Practice.

### **Additional Information**

Students who have special needs or who have a disability should self-identify with a counselor prior to or during registration. This will allow the college to make an effort to accommodate special needs students.

### **Teaching Method**

Course content is covered through reading, listening, thinking, discussing and analyzing local Greater Hartford community based agencies. Students are expected to ask questions, share experiences, and actively participate in class discussions.

### **Attendance and Classroom Behavior Policy**

Attending and participating in class are two important factors in the learning process. This means that students should not only attend class but should be prepared to actively participate in class discussions. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the class.

### **Objectives, Learning Outcomes, and Assessment**

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>
To demonstrate an understanding of:	The student will:	As measured by:
1. The history and philosophy of community organizing practice.	Read, write and explore about the function of community organizing in American society.	Completing reading assignments, viewing videos, and attending class lectures.
2. The major political, social and economic theories which have contributed to community organizing efforts.	Examine, identify and discuss theories that contribute to community organizing.	Completing reading assignments, attending class lectures and written assignments.
3. The major social change strategies utilized in community organizing.	Read and converse about community organizing strategies.	Attending class lectures, viewing videos and submitting a needs assessment.
4. Different models of community organizing efforts.	Explore and experiment with various community organizing models.	Completing a needs assessment, conducting community based focused groups and attending class lectures.
5. The analytical ability to apply social change strategies and community organizing practice models in appropriate and effective ways.	Identify appropriate community organizing models for specific community or groups.	Submitting a needs assessment, conducting a final presentation and attending class lectures.
6. The various roles community organizers play in social work practice.	Read and explore the various roles of a social service worker in the community organizing setting.	Attending class lectures and reading class assignments.
7. The skills and tactics necessary to organizing people.	Analyze and discuss skills and tactics related to organizing groups.	Completing service learning hours, attending class lectures, and reading assignments.
8. The knowledge essential in organizing oppressed population groups.	Read and discuss about organizing efforts for oppressed populations.	Reading assignments, complete community needs assessment, and written assignments.

