

COURSE INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

SUMMER 2020

SOCI 4350-900.950 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION Credit Hours 3

Internet Class online meeting times and requirements to be announced and specified
(see below)

Professor / Instructor Contact Information

Milan Zafirovski, Professor

SYCAMORE 288G

Office hours online every day 10AM-10PM

Email address Milan.Zafirovski@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant information to be announced

About the Professor / Instructor

Milan Zafirovski is Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Texas. He received his doctoral degree in sociology from Florida International University, Miami in 1999. He teaches Social Stratification, Community Organization, Social Problems, and Sociology of Work for undergraduate students, and Sociological Theory and Social Stratification for graduate students.

**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

Pre-requisites None

Instructor permissions Not required

Course Description

This course provides an historical and sociological overview of community organization. More specifically, it applies a historical and sociological perspective on community organization in the United States. The course uses empirical evidence and theoretical concepts to analyze, and when necessary suggest solutions to, questions of community organization. Emphasis is placed on the real-life implications and applications of the frameworks for approaching community organization. Therefore the course focuses on the history and sociology of American community since postwar times through the early 21st century, focusing on its observed decline and potential of its renewal during the last part of the 20th century. Above all, it provides a useful historical picture of how and why American community has developed during this specific time, specifically as its growth during postwar times of the 1940-60s and its relative decline during the following decades until the late 20th and early 21st century. It will help students acquire an historical knowledge, appreciation, and sense of the development of American community in longer terms, combined with sociological and related concepts explaining this process.

The content of the course will benefit students by helping them better understand and make sense of community organization and processes in the United States and in part other contemporary societies, including real-life, topical, and publicized issues of community decline or civic crisis and the like. The course closely relates to the content, primary concepts and principles of sociology which has a long-standing tradition of studying community organization and related issues. The course will emphasize acquiring and applying a basic scientific and inter-disciplinary type of knowledge by providing the main sociological and related concepts, objective facts (including statistical data), and explanations of community organization in America and in part comparable societies. It will also emphasize a specific type of abilities such as comprehending, learn, applying, and connecting (rather than merely memorizing) concepts and facts. The course is organized in a specific sequence through learning modules because these are seen as the most appropriate ways to reach the goals and learning objectives of the course. Each particular course subject or lesson is presented by a learning module. A learning module includes learning objectives to be reached for that particular lesson, lesson content with sub-contents, summary, and assignments for students.

Course Structure

The format of the course will be fully (100%) online. Instructor-student interaction and that with fellow students will primarily take place in Canvas throughout the semester, along with a possible video conference using Zoom if needed. The length of the summer 2020 semester is 5 weeks of content, including preparing for, as through reviews of questions, and taking exams. Content delivery proceeds through learning modules the number of which also is 5 in the course. The units/modules are directly associated with the number of weeks so that there is one module per week. Each particular course subject or lesson is presented by a learning module. A learning

module includes learning objectives to be reached for that particular lesson, lesson content with sub-contents, summary, and assignments for students.

Course Objectives

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recall, define and identify concepts of community organization,
2. Compare and contrast forms of community organization,
3. Analyze and explain processes in community organization,
4. Evaluate and predict trends in community organization,
5. Apply and illustrate concepts, forms, processes and trends of community organization in real life,
6. Synthesize and summarize main concepts and facts of community organization.

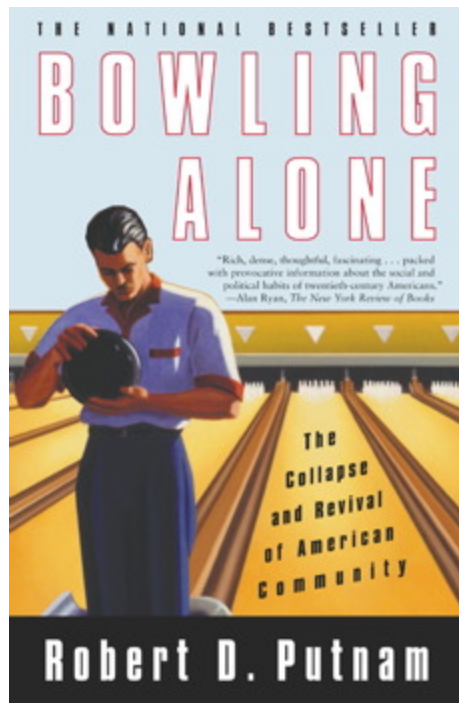
Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course. However, in order to ensure being successful in this course students will need to:

- Identify and reflect on current social trends and issues, including those relating to American community, along with some familiarity with the elementary theoretical foundation that sociology and other social sciences provide.
- Cite sources, giving credit to where you obtain information.
- Network with others and utilize tact when offered differing perspectives.
- Make the commitment to spend at least 10 hours a week reading the assignments, reflecting on the material covered, and participating in other activities throughout the course

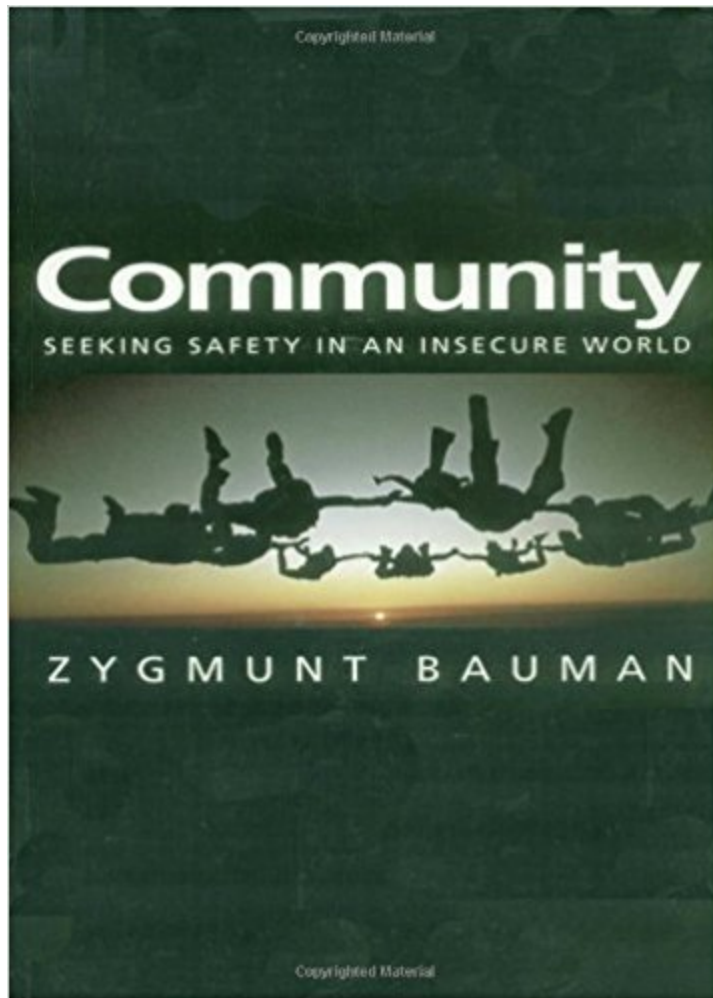
Required Texts

Robert Putnam. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse And Revival Of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN: 9780684832838.



Supplementary readings

Bauman, Zygmunt. *Community: Seeking Safety In An Insecure World*. Cambridge: Polity Press (Blackwell Publishers). ISBN: 9780745626352.



Assignments & Grading

Exams: 0-100 points variable each

Course Objective/Learning Outcomes: students will demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and explanation of basic concepts and facts of community organization. The exams are closed-book and taken individually. The exams will cover the required textbook reading and the content of the online lectures. Complete the exams online by accessing the CANVAS exam tool in Modules. The exams will be timed and grades made available to students following the submission of the exam. If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, log back in immediately and continue on with the exam. Save your answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If you experience any issues while taking the exam, you must contact the CANVAS Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

Assignments Method: Multiple Choice

Quizzes: 0-4 points variable each

Maximum points for each quiz are 4, with 1 point @ 1 question/correct answer. The number of quizzes for the summer semester is 4, therefore total possible quiz points are 16. This is an additional required activity whose scores can substantially increase exam scores and thus improve the final grade.

Assignments Method: Multiple Choice.

Discussion Forums: 1-4 points variable each

Maximum points for each discussion are 4, with 1-4 point @ discussion forum. The number of weekly discussion forums for the summer semester is 6, therefore total possible discussion points are 24. This is an additional required activity points which will be added to and increase exam and quiz scores. The discussion forums are primarily related to the textbook readings.

Discussions are worth between 1 and 4 points each per 1 weekly discussion topic as follows.

Discussions under 100 words but more than 60 words and without any textbook support such as citations or data are worth 1 point each.

Discussions with 100 or more words but less than 200 words and without any textbook support such as citations or data are worth 2 points each.

Discussions with 100 or more words but less than 200 words and with textbook support such as several citations or data are worth 3 points each.

Discussions with 200 or more words and with textbook support such as several citations or data are worth 4 points each.

Semester Assignment: 1-10 points variable (optional)

A semester optional (not required) assignment or project consists of an extensive and in-depth review of supplementary reading Bauman, Zygmunt. Community: Seeking Safety In An Insecure World. Instructions for the review are writing between 4 and 10 full pages, double-spaced, font 12, margin 1, covering the entire reading, minus tables, numbers, and notes, extensively cite the reading, though the review should not be a full literal copy of the book. The completed review should be submitted by the due date specified below.

The review of supplementary reading is worth between 1 and 10 points depending on its quantity and quality as specified below.

A review that is long less than 4 pages and without any book support such as citations or data is worth between 1 point.

A review that is long less than 4 pages and with book support such as citations or data is worth between 2 points.

A review that is long 4 pages and without any book support such as citations or data is worth 3 points.

A review that is long 4 pages and with book support such as multiple citations or data is worth 4 points.

A review that is long between 5-9 pages and without any book support such as citations or data is worth between 4 and 8 points depending on length.

A review that is long between 5-9 pages and with book support such as multiple citations or data is worth between 5 and 9 points depending on length.

A review that is long 10 pages and without any book support such as multiple citations or data is worth 9 points.

A review that is long 10 pages and with book support such as multiple citations or data is worth 10 points.

The review of the supplementary reading is due on July 02, 2020, the last class day (see below).

Communication

Instructor: Milan Zafirovski, Professor.

Email: Milan.Zafirovski@unt.edu

I want to make myself as available as possible to all students, so I place no limitations on when I can be contacted. The primary tool that will be used to communicate directly with students will be email or the learning management system in CANVAS. Students should send personal concerns or questions to my email address or to the learning management system. Students can expect to receive a response to their emails within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner) and within 48 hours over the weekend. The time-frame in providing feedback on written assignments and on posting grades will be a week of the due date. In case if not being able to provide feedback during that time-frame I will inform students of the time of providing it by an Announcement. I will typically assess discussions after the due date and following the posting of student original posts.

Additional communication policies and netiquette for the course, such as CLEAR Online Communication Tips, are provided in Module Start Here.

Course Summary:

Week 1, June 01-08, 2020

Reading Assignments and Lecture Subjects
Social Change in America, Putnam, pp. 15-28
Political Participation, Putnam, pp. 31-47
Civic Participation, Putnam, pp. 48-64
Religious Participation, Putnam, pp. 65-79

June 05, 2020

Quiz 1, Week 1 material, 12AM-11.59PM--
required activity
Discussion 1 through June 08, 2020--required
activity

Week 2, June 08-15, 2020

Reading Assignments and Lecture Subjects
Informal Social Connections, Putnam, pp. 93-
115
Altruism, Volunteering and Philanthropy,
Putnam, pp. 116-133

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| | Reciprocity, Honesty and Trust, Putnam, pp. 134-147 |
| | Against the Tide?, Putnam, pp. 148-180 |
| June 12, 2020 required activity | <u>Quiz 2</u> , Week 2 material, 12AM-11.59PM-- |
| activity | <u>Discussion 2</u> through June 15, 2020--required |
| Week 3, part 1, June 15-18, 2020 | Reading Assignments and Lecture Subjects Introduction, Putnam, pp. 183-188 Pressures of Time and Money, Putnam, pp. 189-203 |
| | Mobility and Sprawl, Putnam, pp. 204-215 Technology and Mass Media, Putnam, pp. 216-246 |
| | Review for the Midterm Exam |
| June 19, 2020 | Midterm Exam, Week 1, 2, 3 part 1 material, 12AM-11.59PM--required activity |
| activity | <u>Discussion 3</u> through June 18, 2020--required |
| Week 3, part 2, June 20-22, 2020 | Reading Assignments and Lecture Subjects What Killed Civic Engagement?, Putnam, pp. 277-284 |
| | Introduction, Putnam, pp. 287-295 Safe and Productive Neighborhoods, Putnam, pp. 307-318 Economic Prosperity, Putnam, pp. 319-325 |
| June 22, 2020 11.59PM--required activity. | <u>Quiz 3</u> , Week 3, part 2 material, 12AM-11.59PM--required activity. |
| activity | <u>Discussion 4</u> through June 22, 2020--required |
| Week 4, June 22-June 29, 2020 | Reading Assignments and Lecture Subjects Health and Happiness, Putnam, pp. 326-335 Democracy, Putnam, pp. 335-349 The Dark Side of Social Capital, Putnam, pp. 350-363. |
| June 26, 2020 required activity | <u>Quiz 4</u> , Week 4 material, 12AM-11.59PM-- |
| activity | <u>Discussion 5</u> through June 29, 2020--required |

Week 5, June 29-July 03, 2020

Reading Assignments and Lecture Subjects
Lessons of History: The Gilded Age and the
Progressive Era, Putnam, pp. 367-401
Review for the Final Exam

July 02, 2021

Last class day
Discussion 6 through July 02, 2020--required
activity
Review of supplementary readings due—

optional activity

July 03, 2020

12AM-11.59PM--required activity

Final Exam, chapters after the midterm exam,

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu