

Course Title: Social Change Theories

Course Number: SW611, Section 001, Fall 2017

Time and Place: Thursdays 6-9pm, September 7 – December 7, SSWB 3752

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Huiyun Kim (seahunt@umich.edu)

Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Course Description

Social change can happen when one effectively intervenes in the decision making processes. Thus, it is critical to analyze decision-making processes in terms of who participates and how power dynamics among those participants shape policy outcomes. In this class, we will first develop theory/concept toolkits that illuminate how power, oppression and privilege manifest themselves in both decision making and non-decision making in a way that reinforces social/economic inequalities. We will then examine theories of policy making processes drawing from political science literature.

Substantively, this class will first examine organizations as contexts for intervention for socially just change. As a front-line human service provider, social workers' decisions have direct impacts on the quality of service to clients, community engagement and advocacy outcomes. We will examine social workers' discretionary practices with an organizational lens while situating organizational decision making into political, economic and financial contexts where those organizations are embedded. In particular, we will explore opportunities and challenges facing social workers in human service organizations and how social workers can further contribute to social justice through organizational transformation.

We will then examine the role of Community Development Corporations (CDCs) in alleviating poverty. Macro social workers are inevitably involved in the process of community development. We will explore community development fields in the context of urban politics in which local governments, CDCs, and private developers interact with each other.

Course Objective

1. Develop theoretical and conceptual toolkits to understand power, oppression and privilege in relation to social justice
2. Understand theories of policy making processes from political science literature
3. Understand an organization as a context for intervention to initiate social change
 - a. How does the organizational decision making in human service organization link to service, community engagement and advocacy outcomes?
 - b. How contextual factors, including devolution of authority, privatization and urban poverty, shape organizational decision making?
 - c. Examine opportunities and challenges (neoliberalism, new public management) facing social workers as an agent of social change
4. Understand the politics of community development, focusing particular attention on the role of CDCs and local governments in the community development processes

Relationship to Curricular Themes: Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Education Policy and Accreditation Standards

- *Social Justice and Social Change*: we will cover empirical and theoretical literature that document socially just organizational, community, and societal structures and processes. Social change theories and strategies will be presented that demonstrate how we move toward a more socially just society.
- *Multiculturalism and Diversity*: we will examine theory and research about oppressed and at-risk populations, and the impact that community, organizational and societal functioning has on the well-being of these groups.
- *Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation*: we will discuss programs and systemic interventions to prevent stress and oppression of individuals, families, and groups and enhance their quality of life and well-being. The role of
- *Behavioral and Social Sciences Research*: we will examine organizational, community, and societal theories that are presented in order to analyze the impact that the social environment has on individuals, families and groups.
- *Social Work Ethics and Values*: This course will address ethical and value issues related to working with organizations, communities, and societal structures and processes. The NASW Code of Ethics and other professional codes will be used to inform practice in this area. Examples of ethical and value related issues will include: the social worker's responsibility to promote the general welfare of society by preventing and eliminating discrimination, ensuring equal access to resources, expanding choices and opportunities for all persons, encouraging informed participation by the public. In addition, issues related to organizations will be covered, such as preventing discrimination in the work place, improving agency policies and procedures, and increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of organizations.

Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice (PODS): This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practice and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students to develop a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks, and strengthen critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

Course Design: The format is a mix of lecture and seminar, including student-facilitated discussions of the assigned readings and in-class presentations.

Grade

The overall grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. Weekly Response to Readings (15% of grade):
2. In class presentation (15% of grade)
3. Critical Review (30% of grade)
4. Organizational Analysis and Social Change through Organizational Transformation (40% of grade)

Grading: A 100 point system is used.

A 95-100

A- 91-94

B+ 87-90

B 84-86

B- 81-83

C+ 77-80

C 74-76

C- 70-73

“A” is given for exceptional performance and mastering of the material

“B” is given to students who demonstrate mastery of the material

“C” is awarded when mastery of the material is minimal

“D” indicates deficiency and carries no credit

“E” indicates failure and carries no credit

Submitting written assignments: The written assignments should be submitted on the due date, no later than 12:00 midnight. You can submit assignments electronically on the course Canvas website.

Course Schedule and Readings

September 7 **INTRODUCTION**

September 14 **THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION 1: POWER AND OPPRESSION**

Objectives:

1. Develop theoretical and conceptual toolkits to understand power, oppression and privilege in relation to social justice

Readings:

Mosse, David. 2010. "A Relational Approach to Durable Poverty, Inequality and Power." *The Journal of Development Studies* 46 (7): 1156-1178.

Mullaly, Bob. 2010. "Oppression: An Overview." 34-66 in *Challenging Oppression and Confronting Privilege*. 2nd ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Hill, Michael, and Frédéric Varone. 2017. "Theories of Power and the Policy Process." 24-53 in *The Public Policy Process*. 7th ed. Abingdon: Routledge.

Garrow, Eve E., and Yeheskel Hasenfeld. 2016. "When Professional Power Fails: A Power Relations Perspective." *Social Service Review* 90 (3): 371-402.

Recommended:

Lukes. 2005. "Power: A Radical View." 14-59 in *Power: A Radical View*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

September 21

THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION 2: THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Objectives:

1. Develop theoretical and conceptual toolkits to understand power, oppression and privilege in relation to social justice
2. Understand theories of policy making processes from political science literature

Readings:

Hill, Michael, and Frédéric Varone. 2017. "Policy and Politics." 141-163 in *The Public Policy Process*. 7th ed. Abingdon: Routledge.

Mullaly, Bob. 2010. "Oppression at the Structural Level." 126-159 in *Challenging Oppression and Confronting Privilege*. 2nd ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Mullaly, Bob. 2010. "Anti-Oppressive Social Work at the Structural Level and Selected Principles of Anti-Oppressive Social Work." 259-286 in *Challenging Oppression and Confronting Privilege*. 2nd ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Brady, Shane R., and Mary Katherine O'Connor. 2014. "Understanding How Community Organizing Leads to Social Change: The Beginning Development of Formal Practice Theory." *Journal of Community Practice* 22 (1): 210-228.

September 28 THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION 3: THEORIES OF THE POLICY PROCESS

Objectives:

1. Develop theoretical and conceptual toolkits to understand power, oppression and privilege in relation to social justice

Readings:

Mettler, Suzanne, and Mallory Sorelle. 2014. "Policy Feedback Theory." 151-181 in *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Paul A. Sabatier and Christopher M. Weible. 3rd ed. Boulder: Westview Press.

Jenkins-Smith, Hank C., Daniel Nohrstedt, Christopher M. Weible, and Paul A. Sabatier. 2014. "The Advocacy Coalition Framework: Foundations, Evolution, and Ongoing Research." 183-223 in *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Paul A. Sabatier and Christopher M. Weible. 3rd ed. Boulder: Westview Press.

Berry, Frances Stokes, and William D. Berry. 2014. "Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research." 307-359 in *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Paul A. Sabatier and Christopher M. Weible. 3rd ed. Boulder: Westview Press.

Andrews, Kenneth T., and Bob Edwards. 2004. "Advocacy Organizations in the US Political Process." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 479-506.

October 5

ORGANIZATIONAL DECISION MAKING IN CONTEXT 1

Objectives:

1. Understand theoretical approaches to human service organizations
2. Identify contextual factors, including devolution of authority, privatization and urban poverty, which shape organizational decisional making

Readings:

Garrow, Eve, and Yeheskel Hasenfeld. 2010. "Theoretical Approaches to Human Service Organizations." 33-57 in *Human Service As Complex Organizations*, edited by Yeheskel Hasenfeld. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Gray, Mel, Mitchell Dean, Kylie Agllias, Amanda Howard, and Leanne Schubert. 2015. "Perspectives on Neoliberalism for Human Service Professionals." *Social Service Review* 89 (2): 368-392.

Spitzmueller, Matthew C. 2016. "Negotiating Competing Institutional Logics at the Street Level: An Ethnography of a Community Mental Health Organization." *Social Service Review* 90 (1): 35-82.

Lindhorst, Taryn, and Julianna D. Padgett. 2005. "Disjunctures for Women and Frontline Workers: Implementation of the Family Violence Option." *Social Service Review* 79 (3): 405-429.

October 12 ORGANIZATIONAL DECISION MAKING IN CONTEXT 2: ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Objectives:

1. How does the organizational decision making in human service organization link to service, community engagement and advocacy outcomes?
2. Identify strategies how social workers can effectively intervene in the policymaking system

Readings:

Mosley, Jennifer. 2013. "Recognizing New Opportunities: Reconceptualizing Policy Advocacy in Everyday Organizational Practice." *Social Work* 58 (3): 231-239.

Hasenfeld, Yeheskel, and Eve E. Garrow. 2012. "Nonprofit Human-Service Organizations, Social Rights, and Advocacy in a Neoliberal Welfare state." *Social Service Review* 86 (2): 295-322.

Powell, Thomas J., Eve Garrow, Michael R. Woodford, and Brian Perron. 2013. "Policymaking Opportunities for Direct Practice Social Workers in Mental Health and Addiction Services." *Advances in Social Work* 14 (2): 367-378.

Lane, Shannon R., and Nancy A. Humphreys. 2011. "Social Workers in Politics: A National Survey of Social Work Candidates and Elected Officials." *Journal of Policy Practice* 10 (3): 225-244.

Brodkin, Evelyn Z. 2010. "Human Service Organizations and the Politics of Practice." 61-78 in *Human Service As Complex Organizations*, edited by Yeheskel Hasenfeld. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

October 19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS 1

Objectives:

1. Identify multiple actors in the field of community development and examine how those actors interact with each other
2. Examine the role CDCs in the field of community development

Readings:

Thomas, June Manning. 2015. "Redevelopment in Detroit: Spatial Evolution." 51-74 in *Mapping Detroit: Land, Community, and Shaping a City*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

Yin, Jordan S. 1998. "The Community Development Industry System: A Case Study of Politics and Institutions in Cleveland, 1967–1997." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 20 (2): 137-157.

Frisch, Michael, and Lisa J. Servon. 2006. "CDCs and the Changing Context for Urban Community Development: A Review of the Field and the Environment." *Community Development* 37 (4): 88-108.

Galster, Gerge, Diane K. Levy, Noah Sawyer, Kenneth Temkin, and Christopher Walker. 2004. *The Impact of Community Development Corporations on Urban Neighborhoods*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

October 26 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS 2

Objectives:

1. Identify multiple actors in the field of community development and examine how those actors interact with each other
2. Examine the role CDCs in the field of community development

Readings:

Mayer, Neil and Langley Keyes. 2005. *City Government's Role in the Community Development System*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

Glickman, Norman J., and Lisa J. Servon. 1998. "More than Bricks and Sticks: Five Components of Community Development Corporation Capacity." *Housing Policy Debate* 9 (3): 497-539.

Sites, William, Robert J. Chaskin, and Virginia Parks. 2007. "Reframing Community Practice for the 21st century: Multiple Traditions, Multiple Challenges." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 29 (5): 519-541.

Brown, Peter Hendee. 2015. "Developers and the Community." 278-299 in *How Real Estate Developers Think*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

November 2 URBAN POLITICS AND URBAN POVERTY 1

Objectives:

1. Understand how urban politics influence urban poverty and local safety net

Readings:

Marwell, Nicole P. 2009. "Formal Organizations and the Problem of Social Order in the City." 1-32 in *Bargaining for Brooklyn: Community Organizations in the Entrepreneurial City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Marwell, Nicole P. 2009. "A Voice in Politics." 95-148 in *Bargaining for Brooklyn: Community Organizations in the Entrepreneurial City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Allard, Scott. 2017. "The Local Safety Net Response." 101-144 in *Places in need: The Changing Geography of Poverty*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Allard, Scott. 2017. "Understanding Metropolitan Social Service Safety Nets." 145-176 in *Places in need: The Changing Geography of Poverty*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Garrow, Eve E. 2012. "Does Race Matter in Government Funding of Nonprofit Human Service Organizations? The Interaction of Neighborhood Poverty and Race." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 24 (2): 381-405.

November 9 URBAN POLITICS AND URBAN POVERTY 2

Objectives:

1. Understand how urban politics influence urban poverty

Readings:

- Marwell, Nicole P., and Michael McQuarrie. 2013. "People, Place, and System: Organizations and the Renewal of Urban Social Theory." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 647 (1): 126-143.
- Levine, Jeremy R. 2017. "The Paradox of Community Power: Cultural Processes and Elite Authority in Participatory Governance." *Social Forces* 95(3): 1155-1179.
- Desmond, Matthew, and Monica Bell. 2015. "Housing, Poverty, and the Law." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 11: 15-35.
- Basolo, Victoria, and Corianne P. Scally. 2008. "State innovations in affordable housing policy: Lessons from California and New Jersey." *Housing Policy Debate* 19 (4): 741-774.

November 16 SOCIAL CHANGE IN DECLINING CITY: DETROIT AS A CASE STUDY

Readings:

- Alperowitz, Gar, and Steve Dubb. 2015. "A Community Wealth-Building Vision for Detroit—and Beyond." 183-200 in *Reinventing Detroit: The Politics of Possibility*, edited by Michael Peter Smith and L. Owen Kirkpatrick. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
- Fasensfest, David. 2015. "The Cooperative City: New Visions for Urban Futures." 201-218 in *Reinventing Detroit: The Politics of Possibility*, edited by Michael Peter Smith and L. Owen Kirkpatrick. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
- Marcuse, Peter. 2015. "Which Way, "Detroit"?" 219-237 in *Reinventing Detroit: The Politics of Possibility*, edited by Michael Peter Smith and L. Owen Kirkpatrick. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
- Stoecker, Randy. 1997. "The CDC model of urban redevelopment: A critique and an alternative." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 19 (1): 1-22.

November 23	Thanksgiving day: No class
November 30	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS 1: Organizational Analysis and Social Change through Organizational Transformation
December 7	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS 2: Organizational Analysis and Social Change through Organizational Transformation

Course Assignment

Class participation/Weekly Response to Readings (15 point):

- You should post your response to the Canvas by every Wednesday Midnight. Response should address at least two assigned readings.
- Response should include common themes emerging from those readings, how those readings complement each other, and reflection on your field/life experience.
- Length of response is limited to 500 words.
- Students leading discussions will incorporate those responses in their presentation and discussion.
- You are valuable source of learning opportunities to others

In Class Presentation (15 point): Two presentations of assigned readings

- Please sign up for two presentations of assigned readings using the following link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YLh49xfP2SerMjNNi2IJrjaDLNzykoun-wzvTVX62O0/edit#gid=880249665>
- Presenters should focus on fostering critical conversation around the week's readings.

Critical Review (30 points):

- Select a book on a social issue that is of interest to you and that is national in scope (e.g., poverty, inequality, immigration, lone-parents, low-wage workers, childhood poverty, homelessness, education, health, culture and poverty, race, gender discrimination, issues around sexual orientation, criminal justice system)
- Critical Review (10 pages) should include: a) a statement of the issues being addressed; b) the theoretical approach used by the author(s); c) the key findings and evidence supporting them; and d) your critical assessment of the 1) theoretical approach and 2) evidence supporting the author's conclusions.
- Refer to a theory or theories discussed in class in your critique of the author's theoretical approach (part d) to answer the following questions: 1) what potential causes or consequences of the social issue or problem are highlighted by the author's theoretical approach? 2) What does the author's theoretical approach mask or fail to consider? 3) What additional theory or theories from class could usefully be applied to the social issue or problem to increase understanding of its causes or consequences?
- Exemplary book review: Tadeo Weiner Davis, review of *Making Immigrant Rights Real: Non-profits and the Politics of Integration in San Francisco*. By Els de Graauw. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2016.
- Due: November 9th

Organizational Analysis and Social Change through Organizational Transformation (40 points):

- During the course of this term, we will examine organizations as contexts for intervention for socially just change. In this project, you will develop an intervention guided by theory (s) to address the problem that you analyzed. You can use one theory to analyze the problem and for developing an intervention because it will fit better together; however, some theories are better at explaining issues and others at guiding intervention, so if needed you can use one theory for the analysis and another for the intervention.
- You can work individually or in groups of up to 3.
- Paper should be between 10 and 15 pages, double-spaced. Please use APA style. Cite at least five class readings to support your analysis.
- For **Organizational Analysis** part, please cover the following 5 dimensions: organizational domain and mission, policy environment, task environment, service technology, and staff-client relations.
- For **Social Change through Organizational Transformation** part, choose one social problem that your chosen organization is already engaged in, or needs to engage, and examine how the organization can effectively work to solve the problem.
- Due: November 30th or December 7th (please submit your paper on the date when you present your project)