PSY 781: Community Interventions

Fall 2009

Professor: Charlene Baker, Ph.D. Office: 101E Gartley Hall
Time/Day: T/9:00-11:30a Telephone: 956-5669
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Office Hours: by appointment

Purpose

This seminar is intended to provide a systematic study of the design and implementation of community interventions. The major objective of the course is to increase students’ knowledge of approaches used to develop intervention programs and to conduct intervention research. The course will offer students the opportunity to: 1) examine different methodological approaches to intervention development; 2) become familiar with different types of intervention strategies and how these fit within an ecological framework; 3) discuss approaches for monitoring interventions for effectiveness; 4) discuss ethical dilemmas in designing interventions; 5) assess the cost effectiveness of interventions; and 6) discuss strategies to increase the sustainability of interventions. Students will also have the opportunity to present their own research as it relates to these topics.

Format

The format of this seminar will consist of class discussions. Each class session will involve interactive discussions of the assigned readings. In addition, students should be prepared to discuss some of their own experiences/projects and how these relate to the topics of intervention development, implementation, and evaluation.

Requirements

Students will complete 2 take-home essay exams to demonstrate their mastery of the course material. The exams will require students to integrate, examine, and critique existing literature on community interventions rather than simply memorize course content. Exams MUST be typed. Additionally, students will be required to make a 30 minute presentation on an intervention of their choice.

Take-home exams and the presentation will be weighted equally at 30% each. Class attendance is mandatory and will be worth 10% of the final grade.
Required Readings for the Course

A reader with the articles listed below can be picked up at Professional Image, 2633 S. King Street (phone number 973-6599). The approximate cost for the reader is $44.27 plus tax.

Week 1 (August 25): Introduction to Seminar

Week 2 (September 1): Overview of Community Interventions


Week 3 (September 8): Before Developing and Implementing Intervention Strategies: Building Capacity and Conducting an Ecological Assessment


Week 4 (September 15): Culturally Anchored Research to Develop Appropriate/Relevant Intervention Strategies.


Week 5 (September 22): Individual-Level Interventions


Week 6 (September 29): Family-Level Interventions


**Week 7 (October 6): Systems/Organizational-Level Interventions**


*MID-TERM EXAM QUESTIONS WILL BE HANDED OUT IN CLASS.*

**Week 8 (October 13): MID-TERM EXAM DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

**Community-Level Interventions**


**Week 9 (October 20): Societal Interventions (policy-related)**


**Week 10 (October 27): Interventions at Multiple Levels of the Social Ecology**


**Week 11 (November 3): Monitoring Interventions for Effectiveness**


**Week 12 (November 10): Ethics of Community Interventions**


**Week 13 (November 17): Cost-Effectiveness of Interventions**


**Week 14 (November 24): Disseminating and Sustaining Interventions – Transferring Innovations**


**Week 15 (December 1):**

Presentations

**Week 16 (December 8):**

Presentations

Wrap-up

*FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS WILL BE HANDED OUT IN CLASS.*

FINAL EXAM DUE December 15th AT 5:00 PM.