Wayne State University  
Department of Urban Studies & Planning  
UP 6340: Community Development

**Instructor**  Patrick Cooper-McCann (cooper@wayne.edu)

**Course info**  Fall 2020, CRN: 13695, 3 credits

**Class sessions**  5:30 to 8 pm on Wednesdays, Online (Synchronous)

**Format**  Lecture/Seminar

**Office hours**

Want to chat about Detroit or a career in community development? Have a question about the class? Send me an email to arrange a time to talk. I’m available most afternoons.

**Course description**

This course prepares students to lead community-based initiatives to improve quality of life and advance racial and social justice within neighborhoods. In the first half, students learn about community organizing and capacity building, with a focus on environmental justice, community benefits, and safe and secure housing. The second half of the course focuses on the workings of the community development industry. Students learn how government agencies, community development financial institutions, and community-based nonprofits partner to help low-income families increase their financial resources, access affordable housing, and secure high-quality education and jobs. The course also provides a basic overview of grant writing, theories of change, and program evaluation.

**Learning objectives**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Compare different approaches to community organizing and development
- Explain the evolution and functioning of the community development industry, including the roles played by nonprofit and governmental organizations
- Advise community-based organizations on how they can organize and build capacity to secure community benefits, mitigate displacement, increase financial wellbeing, build affordable housing, and promote economic development
- Write and present a grant proposal that recommends an appropriate program or policy that will contribute to the development of a particular community
- Find resources on and contribute to community development efforts in Detroit

**Required readings**

All readings will be posted on Canvas and are listed in order of priority. Readings must be completed *prior* to each week’s class. There are no required books to purchase.
Technology requirements
This class meets weekly using Zoom. To participate, you will need a computer with reliable internet access and a camera, microphone, and speakers. For assistance with technology issues, contact the C&IT Helpdesk at 313-577-4357 or helpdesk@wayne.edu. Students who lack adequate hardware or reliable internet access should email the Dean of Students at doso@wayne.edu or call 313-577-1010 for assistance.

Assessment and due dates
This course has six graded requirements: class participation, a meeting report, a midterm exam, a grant proposal, a presentation of the proposal to the class, and a final exam.

1. Participation = 10%
   Full participation requires completing assigned readings and activities prior to class; attending class on Zoom; taking notes on readings, lectures, and class discussions; engaging in class by posing thoughtful questions and comments and participating in group activities. Students may have one absence without explanation.

2. Meeting report = 5%
   Every student will be required to attend one community meeting or webinar during the semester and report back to the class through written notes and a 5-minute presentation. Students can sign up to present at the start of any class from September 9 to December 2.

3. Midterm exam = 25%
   The midterm will be a written, take-home exam. The questions will be shared after class on October 7. The exam must be returned by midnight on October 13.

4. Grant proposal (letter of intent, first draft, and final draft) = 25%
   Students will be required to write and present a grant proposal. Students may work individually or in pairs. The assignment offers students an opportunity to research a program or policy of personal interest and then develop a proposal to implement that idea in the community of their choice. An initial “letter of intent,” worth 5%, will be due on October 6. A first draft of the proposal, worth 10%, will be due October 30. The final draft of the proposal, worth 10%, will be due December 2.

5. Proposal presentation = 10%
   Students will present their proposals to the class on December 9. All students must attend all presentations. The presentations will be brief, but depending on the size of the class, this session may be longer than the normal class period. Please plan accordingly.

6. Final exam = 25%
   The final will be a written, take-home exam. The questions will be shared after class on December 9. The exam must be returned by midnight on December 16. The exam is not cumulative; it will test all readings and lectures covered after the midterm.

The grading scale is as follows: A: 94-100, A-: 90-94, B+: 87-90, B: 83-87, B-: 80-83, C+: 77-80, C: 73-77, C-: 70-73, D: 60-70, F: 0-60.
The grade of any assignment submitted late, including interim products, will be reduced by one marking grade (e.g. from a B+ to a B), unless the student requests and receives an extension from the professor in advance. All assignments must be completed to receive a course grade. A course grade of “Incomplete” will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be arranged, in writing, before the last class session.

**Assistance with writing**
The Wayne State Writing Center offers free virtual tutoring sessions Monday-Thursday, 10 to 5. Sign up here: [http://www.clas.wayne.edu/writing/](http://www.clas.wayne.edu/writing/). You can schedule a session to receive help with any written assignment. The tutor will help you edit your own writing.

**Student Disability Services statement**
If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Once you have met with your disability specialist, I will be glad to talk with you privately to arrange your accommodations. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. You can learn more about the disability office at [www.studentdisability.wayne.edu](http://www.studentdisability.wayne.edu). To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at: [https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/](https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/)

**Statement on academic misbehavior**
Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct ([http://doso.wayne.edu/codeofconduct.pdf](http://doso.wayne.edu/codeofconduct.pdf)). Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

*Cheating*: Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student’s test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam; (d) unauthorized access to a test from a previous semester also constitutes cheating.

*Fabrication*: Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.
**Plagiarism:** To take and use another’s words or ideas as one’s own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons. (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student’s access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

**Course drop/withdrawal information**
In weeks one and two of the full term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. Beginning with the third week of the term students who wish to drop the class must initiate a withdrawal request. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the 10th week; students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. More information on this can be found at: https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping.

**Course Schedule**

**Part I. Organizing for Community Development**

1. **September 2 – Course Overview**


   3. Sign up for email updates from Next City and CDAD:
      - Next City: https://nextcity.org/ (top right corner)
      - CDAD: https://cdad-online.org/ (lower right corner)

2. **September 9 – What Is Community Development?**


3. September 16 – Community Organizing and Capacity Building


4. September 23 – Organizing for Environmental Justice


5. September 30 – Organizing for Community Benefits


6. October 7 – Organizing for Secure Housing


7. October 14 – Introduction to Grant Writing

No required readings. The take-home midterm is due by midnight on October 13.

Part II. The Community Development Industry

8. October 21 – The Market-Based Approach to Community Development


10. November 4 – Providing Affordable Housing


11. November 11 – Community Development Systems


12. November 18 – Planning and Evaluating Comprehensive Change


13. **December 2 – Community Development Amidst COVID-19**


*These readings may be revised leading up to December as the COVID-19 crisis evolves.*

14. **December 9 – Student Proposal Presentations**

**Final Exam due December 16**