

**Sociology 510: Engaged Methodologies  
Fall 2001**

**Phil Nyden, Faculty**

**Course Overview**

The course will examine all aspects of how sociology is used, and can be used, in community-based research and in social-change oriented initiatives. While we will discuss traditional notions of applied research, we will study different models that engage community members as participants in aspects of research, from defining research issues and designing methodologies to gathering data, analyzing data, writing reports, and disseminating results. Part of the course will build on the collaborative policy research models developed by the Chicago-based Policy Research Action Group ([www.luc.edu/depts/curl/prag](http://www.luc.edu/depts/curl/prag)) and the Loyola Center for Urban Research and Learning ([www.luc.edu/depts/curl](http://www.luc.edu/depts/curl)) over the past twelve years and used in over 250 community-level, regional, national, and international research projects.

**Required Readings**

Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Web site: <http://www.northwestern.edu/IPR/abcd.html>.

Bender, Thomas. *Intellect and Public Life: Essays on the Social History of Academic Intellectuals in the United States*, Selections.

Center for Neighborhood Technology, "The Neighborhood Early Warning System," (web site) <http://www.newschicago.org/>.

Center for Neighborhood Technology, Web site: <http://www.cnt.org/index.cfm>.

Deegan, Mary Jo. "W.E.B. Du Bois and the Women of Hull-House, 1895-1899." *American Sociologist* v19, no. 4 (Winter 1988):301-10.

DuBois, W.E.B. "What is the Negro Problem?," "The Training of Negroes for Social Power," "The Future of the Negro Race in America," "The Niagra Movement" (these are selections from various books and essays)

Edwards, Richard. "The Academic Department: How Does It Fit Into the University Reform Agenda?" *Change* (Sept-Oct 1999), pp. 17-27. [<http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/priorities/changearticle.html>]

Feagin, Joe R. "Social Justice and Sociology: Agendas for the Twenty-first Century," *American Sociological Review*. Volume 66, Number 1 (February 2001).

Freire, Paulo, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. N.Y.: Seabury Press, 1970.

Hess, Douglas R. "Community Organizing, Building and Developing: Their Relationship to

Comprehensive Community Initiatives." Paper is presented as part of the Working Papers series for COMM-ORG: The On-line Conference on Community Organizing and Development, June 1999.  
<http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers99/hess.htm>.

Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight, "Introduction," *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*, Evanston, IL: Institute for Policy Research (1993), pp 1-11 (available on-line at:  
<http://www.nwu.edu/IPR/publications/Introd.building.html>).

Liebow, Elliot. "A Soft Beginning." Preface from *Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives of Homeless Women*. N.Y.: Penguin, 1993.

*Living Knowledge: Journal of Community Based Research*, (No 0), January 2001.  
<http://www.bio.uu.nl/living-knowledge/> (downloadable pdf file).

Menand, Louis, "How to Make the PhD Matter." *The New York Times Magazine*, September 22, 1996.

Mills, C. Wright. "The Higher Circles," Chap 1 from *The Power Elite*. N.Y.: Oxford, 1956.

Nyden, Philip and Barbara Ferman, "Youth Voices in Policy," Proposal to Pew Charitable Trust, 2001.

Nyden, Philip, Anne Figert, Mark Shibley, and Darryl Burrows, eds. *Building Community: Social Science in Action*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 1997.

Nyden, Philip, John Lukehart, Michael Maly, and William Peterman, "Neighborhood Racial and Ethnic Diversity in U.S. Cities, *Cityscape* special issue vol. 4, no. 2, 1998.

Sclove, Richard. "Everyone Contributes," Chap 11 in *Democracy and Technology*. NY: Guilford Press, 1995.

Stoecker, Randy. "Are Academics Irrelevant? Roles for Scholars in Participatory Research," Paper Presented at the American Sociological Society Annual Meetings, 1997.  
<http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers98/pr.htm> (A revised version of this paper was published in the *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol. 42, 1999).

Stoecker, Randy, *ACommunity-Based Research: The Next New Thing.*@ Report to Campus Compact and the Bonner Foundation, January 2001. <http://members.core.com/~rstoeck/cbrreportb.htm>.

Whyte, William Foote, ed. *Participatory Action Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1991.

Additional readings, either distributed in class the week before or available on the web, will be assigned during the semester.

### **Course requirements**

All students will be required to complete a final paper or project related to community engaged research. A requirement is that the project directly involve a community partner. There are a number of ongoing projects at the Center for Urban Research and Learning in which you may contribute. I would also consider active community projects in which you are currently working. *You are required to discuss a project with me and finalize plans by September 13.*

CURL projects in which you can possibly participate are listed below. All of these projects will involve joining a collaborative team of faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and community leaders in completing research. The possible projects are:

§ *An examination of affordable housing in the Rogers Park, Edgewater, and Uptown community areas*

With funding from HUD and the State of Illinois we are working with a variety of community-based organizations in developing a community data-base that can help identify available affordable housing and the impact of reinvestment in these three community areas

§ *Smart Growth and Equity: Regional Connections*

Through support from the Woods Fund and in cooperation with a number of regional and community-based organizations, we are examining the extent to which community-based organizations are involved in regional, statewide, and federal policy initiatives. We are also looking at what factors facilitate these connections.

§ *Participatory Evaluation Research Team*

CURL is working with five community-based or city-wide organizations evaluating programs and initiatives. There are opportunities to join a team of students, faculty, and community leaders in completing one of these projects.

§ *Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness*

CURL is evaluating a project being completed by a coalition of organizations connected to United Power for Action and Justice.

§ *Use of Tax Increment Financing District Money for Job Training*

The Policy Research Action Group is working with government, university, community, and foundation leaders to examine possible ways in which TIF money can be used to fund job training for low-income workers in Chicago. TIF's provide "additional" money from taxing districts that can be used for special purposes.

**Office and Office Hours**

Dr. Nyden, CURL, Lewis Towers 1010, Water Tower Campus (Damen Hall 234A, Lake Shore Campus)  
312-915-7761; e-mail: [pnnyden@luc.edu](mailto:pnnyden@luc.edu)

Because of frequent meetings with students and meetings out in the community, you should call or e-mail to arrange an appointment. Please leave a message on my voice mail if necessary; I also look at my e-mail regularly during the day. My primary office is at the Water Tower Campus. I will generally be in my Damen Hall office just before class, but the best place to contact me is at CURL at the Water Tower Campus.

**Course Schedule**

**Aug. 30**                    **Engaged methodologies from theoretical perspectives to specific methodologies**

**Sept. 6**                    **An engaged methods approach: A collaborative university:community research model**

*Readings:* Nyden et al, Chaps 1 & 2, Part I & II.

**Sept. 13**                   **Sociological foundations for community-engaged research approaches**

*Readings:* Deegan, DuBois, Feagin, Liebow, Mills

**Sept. 20**                   **Participatory action research**

*Readings:* Freire, Nyden, Part IV

**Sept. 27**                   **An engaged methods approach: participatory evaluation research**

Guest: Dr. Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Dept. of Psychology, Loyola University

*Readings:* TBA

**Oct. 11**                   **Connecting research to end-users: A AField of Dreams@ approach (publish it and they will read it) vs. actively connecting research to social policy efforts and community action**

*Readings:* Nyden et al, *Black, White and Shades of Brown*; Stoecker (both papers); Whyte (selections)

- Oct. 18**      **An Engaged methods approach: A community-based regional research institute**
- Guest:* Peter Haas, Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Readings:* Look at Center for Neighborhood Technology web sites (main site and Neighborhood Early Warning System site). Read Scott Bernstein's housing testimony provided on CNT site.
- Oct. 25**      **It's not just the local neighborhood anymore: Regional, national, and global impact through comparative community-engaged research**
- Guest:* Barbara Ferman, Political Science Dept., Temple University
- Readings:* Sclove; *Living Knowledge*; Nyden & Ferman; Nyden et al *Cityscapes*
- Nov. 1**      **Universities as Facilitators or Obstacles in Community Engaged Research: Single-discipline driven research vs. interdisciplinary research**  
**Are traditional universities the best training grounds?**  
**Do institutional interests get in the way?**
- Readings:* Bender; Edwards; Menand; and TBA
- Nov. 8**      **An Engaged Methods Approach: Asset Building Community Development Model**
- Readings:* Kretchmann & McKnight; also look at the Asset-based Community Development Institute's website: <http://www.northwestern.edu/IPR/abcd.html>.
- Nov. 15**      **Maintaining the Rigor of Research in Community-Engaged Work:**  
**§Research ethics in the community setting**  
**§Separating research and activist roles**  
**§Educating the community about research**
- Readings:* Nyden, Part V & TBA
- Nov. 22**      **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)**
- Nov. 29**      **Wrap Up and Student Presentations**