

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code / Title	: HP3902 Community Psychology
Pre-requisites	: HP1000 Introduction to Psychology and HP1100 Fundamentals of Social Science Research or CS2008 Fundamentals of Research (PSMA)
No. of AUs.	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39

Course Aims

Community psychology (CP) examines individuals and communities in context and applies this knowledge to promote positive change and well-being for individuals and the wider society. In this course, you will learn the development of community psychology and its values, theories, concepts, and prominent approaches to research. You will examine these in topics relevant to the Singapore context (e.g. aging and sustainability) to allow you to connect learnt content with local issues, as the fundamental aim of community psychology is to integrate research and action to solve social problems. Understanding psychological processes at the community level and learning to apply knowledge for action is valuable to those who seek a career in research, policy making, and advocacy, to name a few.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- 1 Explain how the field of community psychology developed
- 2 Describe key theories and concepts in community psychology
- 3 Describe different methods of research with communities
- 4 Discuss the limitations and applications of key theories, concepts, and methods of community psychology
- 5 Apply theories, concepts, and research methods of community psychology to address social issues of local community

Course Content

The course is divided into two sections. First, we cover the development and values of community psychology, common theoretical frameworks (e.g. ecological and systems thinking), approaches to research (e.g. participatory methods and programme evaluation), and core concepts (e.g. prevention, promotion, social change, empowerment, community, participation). Next, we adopt a community psychology lens to examine social, health, and sustainability topics pertinent to Singapore (e.g. immigration, racial harmony, aging, and environmental sustainability).

Course Assessment

CA1	Test/Quiz	:	20%
CA2	Assignment (Critical review of journal article)	:	20%
CA3	Assignment (Opinion piece)	:	20%
CA4	Project (Group proposal, group presentation, peer review)	:	40%

Total			100%

Reading and References

Bond, M. A., Serrano-García, I. E., Keys, C. B., & Shinn, M. E. (2017). *APA handbook of community psychology: Vol. 1, Theoretical foundations, core concepts, and emerging challenges*. American Psychological Association.

Bond, M. A., Serrano-García, I. E., Keys, C., & Shinn, M. E. (Eds.). (2017). *APA handbook of community psychology: Vol. 2, Methods for community research and action for diverse groups and issues*. American Psychological Association.

Seidman, E. (1988). Back to the future, community psychology: Unfolding a theory of social intervention. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 16(1), 3-24.

Perkins, D. D., Sonn, C. C., Lenzi, M., Xu, Q., Carolissen, R., Portillo, N., & Serrano-García, I. (2023). The global development of community psychology as reflected in the *American Journal of Community Psychology*. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 72, 302-316. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12696>

Incorporating intersectionality into psychology: An opportunity to promote social justice and equity. *American Psychologist*, 71(6), 474.

Sonn, C. C., & Quayle, A. F. (2013). Developing praxis: Mobilising critical race theory in community cultural development. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 23(5), 435-448.

Reference list for critical review assignment:

1. Menon, S., & Hartz-Karp, J. (2023). Applying mixed methods action research to explore how public participation in an Indian City could better resolve urban sustainability problems. *Action Research*, 21(2), 230-253.
2. López, J. S., Soria-Oliver, M., Aramayona, B., García-Sánchez, R., Martín, M. J., & Martínez, J. M. (2023). Combining participatory action research and emerging ways of collective action to promote institutional change toward social commitment: Groundings, strategies, and implications of an experience. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 51(3), 1435-1453.
3. Jarvis, M. A., Pillay, S. R., Norton, L. M., Hiranman, N., & Baloyi, O. B. (2023). Delivering a psychosocial program for older people living in retirement homes during the Covid-19 pandemic: A process evaluation and recommendations for community interventions. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 51(1), 31-50.
4. Madyaningrum, M. E., Sonn, C. C., & Fisher, A. T. (2022). Disability organizations as empowering settings: Challenging stigmatization, promoting emancipation. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 69(3-4), 474-483.

5. Corvino, C., Martinez-Damia, S., Belluzzi, M., Marzana, D., & D'Angelo, C. (2023). "Even Though We Have Different Colors, We Are All Equal Here": Immigrants building a sense of community and wellbeing through sport participation. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 51(1), 201-218.
6. Siu, K. W. M., & Xiao, J. X. (2020). Public facility design for sustainability: Participatory action research on household recycling in Hong Kong. *Action Research*, 18(4), 448-468.
7. Singh, G., Battalova, A., Miller, W. C., Simpson, E., Rash, I., Mohammadi, S., ... & Mortenson, W. B. (2023). Resilience practices among a broad spectrum of individuals with physical disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic: A qualitative photo elicitation study. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 51(7), 2887-2905.

NOTE: The above listing comprises the foundational readings for the course and more up-to-date relevant readings will be provided when they become available.

Planned Weekly Schedule (subject to changes, if any)

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
Week 1	Development, values, and theoretical frameworks in Community Psychology (CP)	1,2	APA Handbook Vol 2 Chapter 1
Week 2	Research approaches in CP (participatory and programme evaluation)	2,3,4,5	APA Handbook Vol 2 Chapters 3 and 7
Week 3	Prevention, promotion, and social change	2,3,4,5	APA Handbook Vol 1 Chapter 11
Week 4	Community and participation	2,3,4,5	<p>APA Handbook Vol 1 Chapters 13 and 15</p> <p>Additional suggested reading:</p> <p>Perkins, D. D., Hughey, J., & Speer, P. W. (2002). Community psychology perspectives on social capital theory and community development practice. <i>Community Development</i>, 33(1), 33-52.</p>
Week 5	Empowerment and collective action	2,3,4,5	APA Handbook Vol 1 Chapter 10
Week 6	Community interventions	2,3,4,5	<p>APA Handbook Vol 2 Chapter 17</p> <p>Seidman, E. (1988). Back to the future, community psychology: Unfolding a theory of social</p>

			intervention. American Journal of Community Psychology, 16(1), 3-24.
Week 7	Community psychology in Asia and Singapore	1,2,4,5	Perkins, D. D., Sonn, C. C., Lenzi, M., Xu, Q., Carolissen, R., Portillo, N., & Serrano-García, I. (2023). The global development of community psychology as reflected in the American Journal of Community Psychology. American Journal of Community Psychology, 72, 302-316. https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12696
Week 8	Environmental sustainability	2,3,4,5	APA Handbook Vol 2 Chapter 26
Week 9	Aging and health	2,3,4,5	APA Handbook Vol 2 Chapter 36
Week 10	Immigration and migration	2,3,4,5	APA Handbook Vol 2 Chapter 18
Week 11	Racial harmony	2,3,4,5	Rosenthal, L. (2016). Incorporating intersectionality into psychology: An opportunity to promote social justice and equity. American Psychologist, 71(6), 474. Sonn, C. C., & Quayle, A. F. (2013).

			Developing praxis: Mobilising critical race theory in community cultural development. Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology, 23(5), 435- 448.
Week 12	Project presentations	2,3,4,5	
Week 13	Summary of course	1,2,3,4,5	