

CPSY 590 -- Community Development and Social Change

Fall 2008 – Wednesday 7-9 pm

Professor Tod Sloan

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Course Description

Introduces counselors, therapists and other helping professionals to community-level strategies for addressing social injustice through system change, advocacy, and social movement building. Draws on community psychology, political economy, sociology of social movements, and ideology theory to deepen understanding of power and social transformation.

Course Objectives

- Gain familiarity with the fields of community psychology, community development, and social movement studies
- Examine and evaluate various forms of social change strategies
- Identify roles for counselors and therapists in relation to social movements and social transformation

Textbook: Paul Hawken, *Blessed Unrest*. New York: Viking, 2007.

Requirements

- Regular preparation for and participation in discussion in weekly class sessions (notify professor of anticipated absence by email). More than one absence will trigger a make-up requirement.
- Individual or group project – to be designed (representing 20 hours of effort) – Needs to address or take into account these aspects of the segment of social reality in question: power relations, media and public awareness, ideological processes, culture, social movement, identity, change strategy. To be summarized in a 15-minute presentation near the end of the semester.
- Weekly check-in (read others' comments and write at least a few sentences) on Open Space Forum on moodle.lclark.edu - enrollment key = mizzle – Do this when inspired, but ideally not during the 18 hours before class, since few others will have had a chance to read and respond before they come to class.

Course Schedule (and Meeting Locations)

Free Geek: 1731 SE 10th Ave

People's Coop: 3029 SE 21st Ave

Sept 3 – Introduction

Sept 10 – (free geek) – Discussion of Hawken, pp. 1-68;

Sept 17 – (free geek) – Discussion of Hawken, pp. 71-114;

Sept 24 – (free geek) – Discussion of Hawken, pp. 117-190;

Oct 1 – (free geek) --

Oct 8 – (tba)

Oct 15 – (People's)

Oct 22 – (tba)

Oct 29 – (People's)

Nov 5 – (tba)

Nov 12 – TBA

Nov 19 – TBA

Nov 26 – NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Dec 3 – Presentations

Dec 10 – Presentations