Administrative Unit: Department of History and Social Sciences

Course Prefix and Number: SOCI 401

Course Title: The American Community

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: The nature, history, structure, functions, and changes of American communities. Prerequisite: SOCI 111. Occasional offering.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): SOCI 111.


**Course Objectives:**

- To understand the community as a social system and the impact of community structures on individuals, groups, and organizations.
- To understand how community problems impact the individual and vice versa.
- To analyze common demographic characteristics of communities.
- To analyze the social, economic, and political structures and stratification of the community and their influence on individuals, organizations, and groups within the community.
- To understand the role and problems of minority populations in the community.
- To understand social change and community resistance to change.

**Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand the community as a social system and the impact of community structures on individuals, groups, and organizations.
- Understand the interaction between the community and the individual and vice versa.
- Understand the common demographic characteristics of communities.
- Understand various groups and organizations which exist in and influence the community structure.
- Evaluate the role of social, economic, and political structures and stratification of the community and their influence on individual organizations, and groups within the community.
- Critically interrogate the role and problems of minority populations in the community structure.
Understand the phenomenon of social change and the response of communities to change.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- The History of Community
- Definitions of Community
- Approaches to the Study of Community
- The Community as a Social System: The Open System Perspective
- Spatial Patterns in Cities
- Patterns of Segregation in Cities: Class, Race and Family Type
- Patterns of Rural Communities
- The Demographics of Community
- The Role of Minorities in the Economic Structure
- Poverty in Communities
- Community Power and Social Stratification and Impact on the Individual
- The Relationship of Community to Large-Scale Extra-Local Organizations
- Power, technology, and community change
- The Future of Community

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Dr. Kathleen J. Fitzgerald

Date: September 21, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course's subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.