

SOC285 Community Development (3 Credits)

Instructor: Ayumi SUGIMOTO

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Semester: SP&FL Class Room: D206 Meeting times: M&W 10:30-11:45

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to community development studies and practical field research. Community development is a field science which is necessary to understand complex local situation and find the potential from a local reality. The course is divided into two parts to understand 1) theories and case studies of community development and 2) realities of community development in rural Akita through field research. Students will conduct field study in rural Akita to understand "What is development?" from local people's point of view by participatory observation and key informant interview with local people and governmental officers. We will focus on their life stories to achieve the question. Finally, students will make videos of their life stories, and submit group and individual reports on their findings.

- * Students need to prepare the expense for two times field work
- * Deadline for group and individual reports will be on July 31. Those will be written in both English and Japanese, and will be uploaded on the AIU web site.
- * This course is one of the PBL preparation classes.

Objectives:

Through this class students are expected 1) to understand basic theories and case studies on community development, 2) to acquire communication and presentation skill, and 3) to find local potentials, problems and solutions by analyzing qualitative data (key informants' life stories) through field research.

Class Materials:

Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. and Gary Paul Green eds. 2001 Introduction to Community Development: Theory, Practice and Service-Learning, SAGE, Chapter 1- 7

John W. Traphagan and John Knight eds. 2003 Demographic Change and the Family in Japan's Aging Society, State University of New York Press

Peter Matanle et al. Japan's Shrinking Regions in the 21st Century, Cambria Press, Chapter 9 & 10

David A. Snow, Leon Anderson and Lyn H. Lofland 2005 Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis 4th edition. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Chapter 1, 2, 5

Robert Chambers 1983 Rural Development: Putting the Last First. Longman Scientific & Technical, Chapter 1, 2

Robert J. Smith and Ella Lury Wiswell 1982 The Women of Sue-Mura, University of Chicago Press

Grading Components:

Worksheets and Class contribution (20%)

1 Presentation on reading material with a handout (20%)

1 Group video presentation of life story (20%)

1 Group essay on life story in English and Japanese (20%)

1 Individual report on field work findings in English and Japanese (20%)

* This course has a strict attendance policy: Students who have more than 5 days of unexcused absences in a semester may fail to make the grade.

Class Schedule:

Each class shall be carried out students' presentations and group works based on the reading assignment, and two times field work. Presentations will be given using multimedia materials, such as Power Point presentation and videos, and work sheets which lead students' group discussion. All students will make presentations on the points and the questions of reading assignment with a handout. For the field research, students will study methodologies and prepare research proposals. Finally, after the field work students will make group presentations, and individual and group reports on their findings

Unit I: Perspectives on Community Development

Week 1: Introduction

➤ Overview of the class

➤ Syllabus Review

➤ My field work experiences

Group Work: Working with groups and facilitation skills

(Work sheets will be provided by instructor in advance.)

Week 2: Definition of Community Development

Reading Assignment: Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. and Gary Paul Green eds. 2001

Introduction to Community Development: Theory, Practice and Service-Learning, SAGE, Chapter 1, 2

➤ Definitions of community and community development

➤ Historical review of community development

Week 3: Practice of Community Development

Reading Assignment: Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. and Gary Paul Green eds. 2001

Introduction to Community Development: Theory, Practice and Service-Learning, SAGE, Chapter 3, 7

➤ Finding and creating new resources from the nature

➤ Role of conflicts within communities

Week 4: Approach of Community Development

Reading Assignment: Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. and Gary Paul Green eds. 2001

Introduction to Community Development: Theory, Practice and Service-Learning, SAGE, Chapter 4, 5, 6

➤ Three approaches for community development

Group Work: Sort cases out again by using three approaches

Week 5: Problem of Present Japanese Community

Reading Assignment: John W. Traphagan and John Knight eds. 2003 Demographic Change and the Family in Japan's Aging Society, State University of New York Press, Chapter 1, 2

- How Japanese family and living arrangement does gap between city and rural community in Japan emerge?
- What are the problems of Japanese demographic change?

*Group Work: Demographic changes in students' hometown
(Work sheets will be provided by instructor in advance.)*

Week 6: Green Tourism & Local Entrepreneurs in Akita Prefecture

Guest Speaker from Akita Prefecture

- Green tourism and local entrepreneurs of Akita Prefecture.
- What supports the Akita Prefecture has done?
- What are roles of the Akita Prefecture?

Week 7: 1st Field Work

Activities: Interview with the Informants

Informants: Farmer's Restaurant Yuunaya (May 22) & Farmer's Market Fresh Land Magokoro Kawabe (May 25)

Week 8: Reinventing Japanese Rural Community 1

Reading Assignment: Peter Matanle et al. Japan's Shrinking Regions in the 21st Century, Cambria Press, Chapter 9

Video: "Fula Girl" "

- Current Practice in Tourism
- Discussion on potentials and difficulties of rural community development

Week 9: Reinventing Japanese Rural Community 2

Reading Assignment: Peter Matanle et al. Japan's Shrinking Regions in the 21st Century, Cambria Press, Chapter 10

Video: Jinsei Irodori"

- Theoretical Potentials

Unit II: Field Work Methods & Describing Life Stories

Week 10: Qualitative Data Gathering

Reading Assignment: David A. Snow, Leon Anderson and Lyn H. Lofland 2005 Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis 4th edition. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Chapter 1, 2, 5

- What are goals of data gathering by field work?
What information can we gather by participatory observation and intensive interview?
- How should we record in a field note?

Video de Field Work: Make a field note

Week 11: Bias of Researcher as an Outsider

Reading Assignment: Robert Chambers 1983 Rural Development: Putting the Last First. Longman Scientific & Technical, Chapter 1& 2

- What are common characteristics of researchers as an outsider?
- What biases, which make difficult to understand local community, do researchers have?

Week 12: Understand Community through Life Stories

Reading Assignment: Robert J. Smith and Ella Lury Wiswell 1982 The Women of Sue-Mura, University of Chicago Press

- What kind of information can we gather through life stories?
- What are strength and weakness of qualitative data gathering?
- What are your impressions to Ella's description on one Japanese rural community, Sue-Mura?

Group Work: Make your friend's life story

Group Work: Preparation for field work "Making research plan and questionnaire"

- Schedule of field work.
- Grouping and allotting informants to groups.
- Group Work for preparing field research.
- Presentation of a proposal for field work.

Week 13: 2nd Field Work

Activities: Interview with the Informants

Informants: Farmer's Restaurant Yuunaya (July 3) & Farmer's Market Fresh Land Magokoro Kawabe (July 6)

Week 14: Presentation (July 17)

Group Work: Making life story through field work

No Reading Assignment

- Preparing Power Point Presentation using video, photo and map

Week 15: Synthesis & Conclusion

No Reading Assignment