## SOAN4500 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Course Instructor**: Dr. Deidre Rose

**Email**: derose@uoguelph.ca

**Office Hours**: TBA

**Course time:** Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5:20

**Course location:** MCKN234

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Community development is commonly conceptualized as a process in which local people

and organizations lead in initiating local change. Over the last decades, it

has emerged as a significant alternative to top-down development planning and become part

of the practices of major international and domestic development agencies.

The objective of the course is to critically examine theory, methods, and case studies

associated with community development, as well as more recent critiques of and debates

involving participatory approaches. Specific concepts to be explored include varying discourses regarding community, development, and wellbeing; power, privilege, and oppression; social capital; collective action; and resilience.

**FORMAT**

The course will be conducted in the form of a weekly seminar. Students will be expected to complete a set of readings each week and be fully prepared to actively participate in weekly

discussions. They will also work in small groups to lead a seminar and in larger teams to

develop a funding proposal for a community development project.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Identify and critically discuss key concepts integral to community development;

2. Critically analyze community development case studies from local and global

contexts;

3. Critique various participatory approaches to community development using empirical

material from case studies;

4. Consolidate and interpret practical knowledge, attitudes and skills to facilitate

community development; and

5. Critically reflect on their own positionality and potential role(s) in community

development efforts.

**REQUIRED READINGS**  
Ledwith**,** Margaret, 2020. *Community Development: A Critical and Radical Approach*

Gilchrist, Alison and Marilyn Taylor, 2022. *The Short Guide to Community Development*

Select articles on ARES

**EVALUATION**

The evaluation for this course is made up of the following components (detailed grading

rubrics provided on Courselink):

Participation (Throughout semester) 20%

Reading Reflection Papers 3 times over semester (student choice) 15%

Group Reading Presentation Dates to be assigned 15%

Proposal Presentation Weeks 10 & 11 20%

Project Proposal 25 Last day of classes, by 11:59 30%

*NOTES:*

*All deadlines are final. Unless a valid reason is provided, late work will be assigned*

*a penalty of 2% per day.*

*Group presentation dates must be conducted on the dates assigned.*

*SUBJECT TO REVISION*