Instructor: Erin Nelson  
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Class Time: Mondays 11:30-2:20

Class Location: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Community development is commonly conceptualized as a process in which local people and organizations play a leading role in initiating local change. Over the last decades, it has emerged as a major alternative to top-down development planning, and become part of the practices of major international and domestic development agencies. While participation is key to understanding the nature of community development, the diversity of most communities makes participation, both in the process and in the benefits of change, far from even.

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 participatory approaches. The course will be conducted in the form of a weekly seminar, along with engagement with a community partner. Students will be expected to complete a set of readings each week, be fully prepared for weekly discussion, and actively participate in these. They will also be expected to work collaboratively with the community partner under the direction of the Instructor to develop a community relevant product.