

SOC330 Theory of Community Organization

1st and 2nd quarters, Junior

Instructor	TANAKA YUKITAKA
Style of Class	Lecture, Seminar
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

This course entails both theoretical and case-based study of mutual assistance in community organizations responsible for the resolution of living problems in the local community. The first half of the course (classes 1 through 8) introduces a broad range of case studies on community organizations in urban, suburban, and rural communities and internationally. Students gain a grasp of the basic features of community organizations, including their composition, activities, establishment processes, and historical changes, as well as acquiring knowledge and understanding of both diversity and commonalities.

In the second half of the course (classes 9 through 15), with a view to capturing the realities whereby community organizations set out on the path to resolution of community issues, we study practical cases with which the instructor has been involved in the past. We examine current conditions in community issues and initiatives towards the resolution of them, analyzing the status of regional society and personal relationship, their fluid and diverse facets such as mutually complementary and collaborative relationships between residents' self-help and official assistance furnished by public authorities, and exploring pathways to advancement at different stages of activity, from initiation to implementation and maturation (succession).

Course Objectives

Students will:

- (1) Understand the concept and theory of community organization.
- (2) Study the composition, activities, and historical development of community organizations, and understand their commonalities and differences.
- (3) Study practical cases of community organizations working toward the resolution of community issues.
- (4) Explore the roles of community organizations in terms of mutually complementary and collaborative relationships between self-help, mutual assistance, and official assistance.
- (5) Explore the path to the resolution by analyzing the issues that community organizations face.

Prerequisites

It is desirable, although not mandatory, for students to have taken Community and neighborhood organizations.

Class Materials

As some volumes are out of print, the following and other reference materials will be introduced in class as necessary.

- (1) (Edited by) Iwasaki Nobuhiko, Ajisaka Manabu, Ueda Shinichi, Takagi Masaaki, Hirohara Moriaki, Yoshihara Naoki., 2013, *Zohoban chonaikai no kenkyu* (Studies on Neighborhood Associations, Augmented Edition), Ochanomizu Shobo.
- (2) Ajisaka Manabu, Komatsu Hideo, eds., 2008, *Kyoto no "machi" no shakaigaku* (Sociology of the Kyoto "Town"), Sekai Shisoshu.
- (3) (Edited by) Nakata Minoru, 2000, *Sekai no jumin soshiki—ajia to obei no kokusai hikaku* (Community Organizations Around the World: International Comparison of Asia and Europe/North America), Jichitai Kenkyusha.
- (4) (Edited by) Lim Bon, Machizukuri Kenkyukai, 2009, *Machizukuri no kodineta* (Community Development Coordinators), Gakugei Shuppan.

Course Method

Classes will be operated in lecture and seminar formats (50% each). The first half of each class will be a lecture

on basic frameworks and introduction to case studies. In the second half we will delve deeper into the ideas, engaging in discussion as necessary. Mini-reports will also be assigned regularly, which students should use to confirm their own learning and awareness of problems and build up to production of a final report.

Evaluation/Assessment

Students will be evaluated on the basis of in-class discussion, mini-reports, and final report.

Grading

30%	Discussion
30%	Mini-reports
40%	Final report

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course overview; fundamental concept and theory of community organizations (1)

An introduction to the progression of Classes is provided, together with a Classification of the diverse range of community organizations based on forms of engagement and fields of activity, and an overview of their features.

Week 2: Fundamental concept and theory of community organizations (2)

Examine the theoretical and conceptual features of community organizations using definitions of such terms as “community” and “association.”

Week 3: Community organizations supporting urban societies (1)

Examine the organizational composition and activities of neighborhood associations, community associations, and federated neighborhood associations through a case study of Kyoto, where resident self-government has traditionally been practiced. Also, examine the historical development of mutual assistance beginning with community joint defense arrangements in the Muromachi period, and explore the essential roles of community organizations.

Week 4: Community organizations supporting urban societies (2)

Examine how neighborhood associations, community associations, and federated neighborhood associations have responded to community issues and transformed themselves, using a case study of Kyoto, where resident self-government has traditionally been practiced.

Week 5: Community organizations supporting rural societies (1)

Introduction to mutual assistance initiatives in rural communities through visual materials, etc.; examination of the realities whereby people support one another in community life.

Week 6: Community organizations supporting rural societies (2)

Examine the social relationships in rural communities from the standpoints of both household collectives and community collectives, and explore the essential roles of community organizations in supporting community life.

Week 7: Community organizations in Fukui

Identify local issues in the city and prefecture of Fukui, gain an overview of the composition and activities of community organizations at school zone level, and examine their efforts to resolve local issues.

Week 8: Community organizations worldwide

Examine the diverse profiles of community organizations, including self-initiated, officially established, and institutionally-based organizations, and explore commonalities and differences in their organizational composition, organizational principles, and content of activities.

Week 9: Exploring changes and challenges in social conditions surrounding community organizations (1)

Gain a grasp of key points in the organization of activities and identification of issues from the standpoint of those actually involved, through practical case studies of community organizations working toward the resolution of local issues.

Week 10: Exploring changes and challenges in social conditions surrounding community organizations (2)

Gain a grasp of key points in the organization of activities and identification of issues from the standpoint of those actually involved, through practical case studies of community organizations working toward the

resolution of local issues.

Week 11: Roles of community organizations in self-help, mutual assistance, and official assistance (1)

Gain a grasp of key points in the organization of activities and identification of issues from the standpoint of those providing assistance, through practical case studies of community organizations working together with assistance groups toward the resolution of local issues.

Week 12: Roles of community organizations in self-help, mutual assistance, and official assistance (2)

Gain a grasp of key points in the organization of activities and identification of issues from the standpoint of those providing assistance, through practical case studies of community organizations working together with assistance groups toward the resolution of local issues.

Week 13: Exploring practical cases in resolution of community issues (1)

Research literature and case studies on the current conditions and challenges in a community organization in which you are interested. Expand your insights and refine your proposed solutions through reporting your progress to one another.

Week 14: Exploring practical cases in resolution of community issues (2)

Research literature and case studies on the current conditions and challenges in a community organization in which you are interested. Expand your insights and refine your proposed solutions through reporting your progress to one another.

Week 15: Exploring practical cases in resolution of community issues (3)

Research literature and case studies on the current conditions and challenges in a community organization in which you are interested. Expand your insights and refine your proposed solutions through reporting your progress to one another.

Preparation and Follow-up

- Preparation: Prepare by studying the class topics and reference materials distributed in advance (approx. 1 hour).
- Follow-up: Revise class content and identify points requiring clarification (approx. 1 hour).