

POL 286. University & Community: Past, Present, Future
Wake Forest University
IDS 3383. University & Community: Past, Present, Future
Winston-Salem State University

Room 4903, Building 60-South, Innovation Quarter
Spring 2017
Tuesdays 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Prof. Rogan Kersh [kersh@wfu.edu] (336) 758-3128
Office hours (204 Reynolda Hall) by appt.: kokkonsm@wfu.edu

Prof. Corey D. B. Walker [walkercd@wssu.edu] (336) 750-2408
Office hours (130 Carolina Hall) by appt.: paynea@wssu.edu

Course Description: This collaborative, team-taught seminar explores the complex relationship between universities and communities in the American context. The seminar will utilize a broad interdisciplinary framework in examining theories of community, histories of the university, role of universities in civic affairs, and how universities work to address historic and contemporary public policy concerns. The course will draw on a wide range of readings, multimedia resources, and guest lectures by academic and civic leaders and will be anchored by close examinations of the historical and contemporary examples of Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) and Wake Forest University (WFU). The course encourages students to develop robust frameworks to critically examine how and in what ways universities respond to the changing dynamics of economic, social, and political life in cities and surrounding communities.

Course Requirements: Attendance at all classes is essential: if you must be absent, ***alert both professors via email, in advance***. Grading is as follows: two short writing assignments (30% total); a midterm exam (25%); a team project, including final summary (35%); class participation (10%). Please arrive in class fully prepared to discuss readings/videos and case studies.

- American Community Survey (US Census): <http://bit.ly/1M2wMJQ>
- Arts & Letters Daily: <http://aldaily.com/>
- Diverse: Issues in Higher Education: <http://diverseeducation.com/>
- Inside Higher Education: <https://www.insidehighered.com/>
- New America (nonpartisan policy innovations): <https://www.newamerica.org/>
- The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education: <http://www.jbhe.com/>
- The Chronicle of Philanthropy: <https://www.philanthropy.com/>
- The Ticker (breaking news about/from higher ed): <http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/ticker>

Late Assignment Policy: Extensions will be granted *only in case of emergency*, out of respect to those who honor deadlines despite equally hectic schedules. Late submissions without approved extensions will be penalized ½ letter grade per day (B+ to B, e.g.)

Accessibility Statement: WFU students requiring accommodations should contact Prof. Kersh to make proper arrangements. Please be prepared to share your documentation from WFU's Learning Assistance Center regarding appropriate accommodations.

WSSU students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, psychological, emotional or medical impairments are eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans are also eligible for appropriate and reasonable services. All accommodations are coordinated through the WSSU Department of Disability Services. If you have registered in a previous semester, continuation is not automatic. Please contact dds@wssu.edu to initiate or continue your accommodations.

Academic Honesty: When you enrolled at Wake Forest, you signed (solemnly, we hope) the **University Honor Code**. Recall that incidences of plagiarism, academic cheating, and related violations will result in penalties ranging from course failure to expulsion. For more details, consult the WFU Student Handbook, p. 9; Prof. Kersh is also glad to discuss any concerns.

This course, like all courses at WSSU, is governed by and strictly adheres to the Winston-Salem State University academic integrity policy which establishes the definitions of cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty and procedures for adjudicating cases of academic dishonesty. Each student should be aware of and abide by the policy which is available at <http://www.wssu.edu/administration/legal-affairs/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>.

Seminar Schedule (subject to change)

I. Community: Conceptual, Practical, Controversial

Wk. 1 (1/17): Introduction and Understanding Community I

Key themes: Nature of community/communities in US; national polarization & community

Materials

R. Putnam, "The Prosperous Community" (1993).

President Barack Obama, "Farewell Address" (2017). **Read and/or watch; link has text & video.*

J. Campbell, "Just How Polarized Are Our Politics?" (2016).

M. Hunter/Movement for Black Lives, "Community Control" (2017).

C. Walker and K. Everson, *fifeville* (video; 2005). **Will be screened in class; preview if you like.*

Wks. 2-3 (1/24, 1/31): Understanding Community II

Key themes: Diverse US/campus communities; 'virtual' (digital) community; global community

Materials

K.A. Appiah, "Mistaken Identities: Country" (2016).

M. Dawson, "A Black Counterpublic?" (1994).

R. Florida, "The Paradox of Diverse Communities" (2013).

S. Turkle, "Connected, But Alone?" (video; 2012 TED Talk).

H. Evans, "What Does It Mean To Be A Citizen of the World?" (video; 2016 TED Talk)

First Short Writing Assignment: Due Fri., Feb. 3, 5 PM

II. Universities: Origins & Modern Purposes

Wk. 4 (2/7): History of American Colleges/Universities

Key themes: Origins/transformation of modern research universities & HBCUs

Materials

J. Axtell, *Wisdom's Workshop* (2016), chapter 1.

C. Barrow, *Universities and the Capitalist State* (1990), ch. 4.

W.E.B. DuBois, *The Education of Black People: Ten Critiques 1906-1960*, selections.

T. Duster, "The Long Path to Higher Education for African Americans" (2009)

Eckel & King, "Overview of American Higher Education: (2004).

Wk. 5 (2/14): Purpose(s) of the Modern University

Key themes: Universities' complex/clashing purposes today: creating/disseminating/promoting knowledge; producing job- or graduate school -ready students; preparing engaged citizens; supporting innovative research; advancing critical inquiry/social justice...can universities do it all? Should we even try?

Materials

J. Lukainoff & J. Haidt, "Coddling of the American Mind" (2015).

Manifesto, "Reclaiming Our University" (2016).

R. Rhoads & K. Szelényi, *Global Citizenship and the University*, selection.

A. Ross, "Universities and the Urban Growth Machine" (2012).

N. Zimpher, "Reaching Beyond Boundaries" (2009).

Wk. 6 (2/21): Putting It Together: University-Community Relations

Key themes: How universities relate to their communities, historically & (broadly) in present

Materials

American Academy of Arts & Sciences, "The University and the City" (2011).

P. Ruffins, "The Disconnect Between Colleges and Their Communities" (2002).

A. Semuels, "Should Urban Universities Help Their Neighbors?" (2016).

M. Funkhouser, "Benefits of A Better Town & Gown Relationship" (2015).

M. Whitt, "Strategies to Build Town-Gown Relations" (2014).

Second Short Writing Assignment: Due Fri., Feb. 24, 5 PM

III. Universities & Their Myriad Communities

Wk. 7 (2/28): WSSU in/and the Community I [meets at WSSU]

Key themes: Historical & contemporary engagement of WSSU/Forsyth County.

Materials

J. Anderson, *Education of Blacks in the South*, selections.

C. Cue and L. Davis, *Winston-Salem State University*, selections.

R. Korstad, *Civil Rights Unionism*, selections.

E. Murphy, *The History of Winston-Salem State University 1892-1995*, selections.

S. Thuesen, *Greater Than Equal*, selections.

WSSU Strategic Plan, *Experiencing Academic Distinction: Transforming Learning for 21st c.*

W. Watkins, *The White Architects of Black Education*, selections.

**No class 3/7 or 3/14, owing to respective spring breaks; project teams will meet informally.*

Wk. 8 (3/21): WFU in/and the Community [meets at WFU]

Key themes: Historical & contemporary engagement of WFU/Forsyth County.

Materials

E. Wilson, "To Honor the Legacy" (1992).

WFU Trustees, "Mission and Purpose" (various dates).

M. Gillespie, *Katharine & R.J. Reynolds: Partners of Fortune/Making New South* (2013), part.

S. Gladding, *History of Wake Forest* (Vol. 6, 2016), selections.

Wk. 9 (3/28): WSSU & WFU in/and the Community II: A History of the Future

Key themes: How our institutions can, jointly/separately, shape our community's future.

Materials

C. Shorette II, "Historically Black Colleges & Univs. Remain Vital in Higher Education" (2015).

C. Woodward, "How Tech Helped Winston-Salem Quit Tobacco" (2016).

Other materials to be added as semester progresses.

Take-Home Midterm Exam: Week of 3/28 (Date TBD)

Wk. 10 (4/4): University-Community Nexus: Reforms/Improvements

Key themes: Given the road we've travelled this semester, informed reflections on how might university/community relations be improved, reformed, or otherwise transformed in the future.

Materials

A. Levine, "The Remaking of the American University" (2001).

Judith Rodin, *The University and Urban Revival* (2007), selections.

T. Underwood, *Engaging With Our Neighbors: Town-Gown Relations in Missouri* (2016), part.

L. Winling, "Students and the Second Ghetto" (2010).

J. Palermo, "Starving the Beast: The Battle to Disrupt America's Public Universities" (2016).

Wk. 11 (4/11): Five Colleges: Forsyth Tech, UNC School of the Arts, & Salem College

Key themes: Our Winston-Salem college/university neighbors, & their roles in the community.

Materials

[Guest speakers include representatives from Forsyth Tech and Salem College along with Provost David English, UNC School of the Arts, and Lawrence P. Jackson, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University]

Wk. 12 (4/18): Other NC Institutions

Key themes: How the UNC system and other higher-ed institutions imagine & collaborate with (or conflict with) their communities.

Materials

[Guest speaker Karrie Dixon, Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs, UNC General Administration]

Wk. 13 (4/25): Team Presentations

Key themes: Class teams will present their group-engagement projects to classmates and invited guests from across our community.

Materials

Student Power-Points/Handouts, to be provided ahead of class

Wk. 14 (TBD): Final Course Meeting (Professor's Home)

Key themes: Reflections on the semester; final thoughts

Materials

To be determined based on topical emphases.