

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW COURSE PROPOSAL</b> <b>Undergraduate Programs</b>		UUPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	<b>Department</b>  <b>College</b> <i>(To obtain a course number, contact <a href="mailto:erudolph@fau.edu">erudolph@fau.edu</a>)</i>		
<b>Prefix Number</b>	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i>  <b>Lab Code</b>	<b>Type of Course</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
<b>Credits</b> <i>(Review Provost Memorandum)</i>	<b>Grading</b> <i>(Select One Option)</i>  <b>Regular</b>  <b>Pass/Fail</b>  <b>Sat/UnSat</b>	<b>Course Description</b> <i>(Syllabus must be attached; Syllabus <a href="#">Checklist</a> recommended; see <a href="#">Guidelines</a>)</i>	
<b>Effective Date</b> <i>(TERM &amp; YEAR)</i>			
<b>Prerequisites, with minimum grade*</b>		<b>Corequisites</b>	<b>Registration Controls</b> <i>(Major, College, Level)</i>
<b>*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. &amp; Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course</b>			
<b>WAC/Gordon Rule Course</b>  <b>Yes</b> <b>No</b>  WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See <a href="#">WAC Guidelines</a> .		<b>Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement</b> <i>(Select One Option)</i>  General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See <a href="#">GE Guidelines</a> .	
<b>Minimum qualifications to teach course</b>			
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b>		<b>List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course</b>	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair _____ College Curriculum Chair _____ College Dean _____ UUPC Chair _____ Undergraduate Studies Dean _____ UFS President _____ Provost _____			<b>Date</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Email this form and syllabus to [mjenning@fau.edu](mailto:mjenning@fau.edu) seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

## **POS 3922.001: Community Activism in Practice**

Spring 2021, 3 Credit Hours

Variable Saturdays 9:00 am-3:00pm (unless otherwise indicated)

CU 321 and 321A

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

“Community Activism in Practice” serves as the second semester of a two semester sequence associated with the [Barb Schmidt Fellowship: Cultivating Community Involvement, Advocacy, and Social Change](#).

The Barb Schmidt Fellowship aims to provide student leaders with a platform to develop the skills and knowledge needed to initiate, execute, and sustain a community-based project. The Barb Schmidt Fellowship gives students hands-on experience through peer mentorship and workshops led by community leaders and activists, social influencers, and FAU faculty. Similarly to the fall semester of the fellowship, students will continue to learn key professional and technical skills that are essential for driving social change. Students will work in their groups on their specific projects throughout the semester during both formal, specified times, and informal or outside of the fellowship. These projects will be presented at the end of the fellowship, as well as launched as a real intervention related to the project’s goals. Successful completion of each semester’s coursework earns fellows 3 university credits (6 credits total).

Over the entire academic year, fellows will explore the dynamics of creating, developing, and sustaining social movements through peer-to-peer and student-to-faculty interactive workshops designed to be a platform for student-driven activism and engagement. Grounding this experience will be the introduction to and the practice of mindfulness techniques to ensure the

### *COVID-19 Statement*

*All students in face-to-face classes are required to wear masks during class, and students must sanitize their own workstations upon entering the classroom. Taking these measures supports the safety and protection of the FAU community. Students who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to leave the classroom and/or be removed from the course. Students experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or students who have come in contact with an infected person should immediately contact FAU Student Health Services (561-297-3512).*

self-care and sustainability required for successful social movement work. Led by internationally recognized author and mindfulness teacher Barb Schmidt, this element of the fellowship will provide students a practical demonstration of her maxim that “outer peace begins through inner peace.”

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the semester students should accomplish the following:

- Attend and fully participate in fellowship workshops so as to hone skills relevant to organizing and activism.
- Identify role or roles within group that utilizes individual strengths. Be able to discuss individual contributions to group: What you’ve done well? What you could have done better?
- Reflect on experiences in 2 well-thought-out and edited critical reflection papers that fully answer the prompt questions.
- Individual fellows will develop their skills as verbal communicators of their mission and actions, culminating in final presentations.
- Continue to develop an individual mindfulness practice.

By the end of the semester Groups should accomplish the following:

- Groups will identify local organizations that share a similar focus or issue area and assess their strengths and weaknesses. To this end, groups will interview at least two people each from a different organization regarding their issue.
- Group will develop a communication strategy for raising awareness for their issue. This may include social media, website, distribution material, op-eds, press releases, speeches, art projects, and/or letters.
- Groups will create an ideal budget, create a plan for fundraising, and write a mini-grant proposal.
- Groups will write a project report and plan of implementation at the end of the semester, as well as a reflection paper and group evaluation.
- Groups will present and launch their projects in a public forum on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **FELLOWSHIP MEETING DATES**

Meetings will be held on the following days in the Spring 2020 semester:

Jan 11, Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8, Feb 22, Mar 7, Apr 4, Apr 18, Apr 25 (evening presentation)

### **PREREQUISITES**

Acceptance into the Barb Schmidt Fellowship. Fellows must be dual enrolled high school students in Broward or Palm Beach counties.

### **EVALUATION**

The following are required for completion of the fellowship:

- 1) *Active Participation*. Successful participation includes but is not limited to: attendance, timeliness in arrival and in moving between campus locations, demonstration of preparedness for session activities, demonstration of completion and comprehension of

assigned readings, and regular and active contribution to group discussion. To this end, you will complete a participation self-assessment like the one you did last semester. During the spring semester active participation also includes doing your fair share of work in your group, as well as a group evaluation. *Active participation 20% of your grade.*

- 2) *Local Organization Inventory.* Identifying, contacting, and interviewing at least two people from two different organizations is an important aspect of this experience. Building relationships with others is an important skill for activist work. To that end, you will complete an inventory of at least two local organizations, as well as an analysis of the organizations' strengths and weaknesses. This assignment was introduced during the fall semester and is due at our second fellowship meeting of the spring, Jan 25. *This component is worth 10% of your grade.*
- 3) *Communication Strategy.* Groups are required to develop a specific communication strategy for their organization. At least 3 of the following must be completed in conjunction with this aspect of the fellowship: social media platform, website, distribution material, op-eds, press releases, speeches, art projects, and/or letters. Groups are encouraged to implement as many of these strategies as possible. This is due April 20th. *This component is worth 10% of your grade.*
- 4) *Budget and Fundraising Strategy.* Groups will create an itemized budget for organization operations in spreadsheet format. Further, groups should develop a fundraising strategy to raise the funds necessary for the budget. This is due April 10th via Canvas. *This component is worth 20% of your grade.*
- 5) *Mini Grant Proposal.* Groups will write a mini-grant proposal formatted according to the funding opportunity identified. More information regarding this assignment will be distributed in January. This is due April 4<sup>th</sup> via Canvas. *This component is worth 10% of your grade.*
- 6) *Project Report.* Groups will write a project report that evaluates the need in the community for the organization created, suggests an implementation strategy for addressing the need, and evaluates the group's ability to meet this need. More information regarding this assignment will be provided in February. This is due April 20 via Canvas. *This component is worth 10% of your grade.*
- 7) *Public Presentation.* Groups will present a summary of their projects and proposed implementations on April 25<sup>th</sup> in a public forum. These should be tailored to the issue and approach of each group, but at a minimum it should summarize the components listed above. Groups will have an opportunity to practice these presentations on April 18<sup>th</sup> during the fellowship. Revised presentations should be uploaded to canvas by April 20<sup>th</sup>. *This component is worth 10% of your grade.*
- 8) *Group Evaluation.* You must also complete a group evaluation at the end of the semester. More details will be provided in April.
- 9) *Reaction Papers.* You are also asked to provide two reaction papers during this semester. The first is due February 8. The second is due April 30. These reflections are expected to be more focused and critical than your reaction papers from the fall. Please make sure to spend some time thinking about the prompts, as well as to proofread and edit your papers before turning them in via Canvas. Papers should be 500 to 750 words, organized, and titled. Make sure to use specific examples when possible. Lastly, don't simply summarize

the fellowship's activities; make sure to provide analysis. *This component is worth 10% of your grade.*

\*Please note: Although I am the assigned instructor for the course and the ultimate decision on assigned grades for this term is my responsibility, the Fellowship has been treated as designed by a cohort (including FAU faculty, members of Peaceful Life Peaceful Mind, and our practitioner partners). Understand, in advance, that their observations and assessments of your participation in and contribution to the course will weigh heavily in my overall assessment of your grades.

**Grading Scale:** A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F 0-59.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Required Texts**

The Fellowship is committed to providing a unique praxis-oriented approach to learning structured around peer-collaboration and the exchange of success strategies with the purpose of enriching activist skills. While the Fellowship aims to provide hands-on experiential learning and engagement with activist practitioners, those activities are also guided by critical reflection on the history and theory of social movement practice.

For each daily session Fellows will likely be asked to consider a modest set of readings. A significant share of the participation component of the Fellows' grade will be derived from assessing student preparedness and comprehension of these assigned readings. Readings will be given to you either in hard copy or electronic form hosted on the Canvas site.

### **Participation and Attendance**

#### **Attendance**

In our 8 meetings together, we have a lot of information to cover this semester. It is very important that you are on time and at the fellowship ready to go for those meetings. If you must miss a scheduled fellowship meeting, please make sure to email me ahead of time to communicate the absence. Make sure you also touch base with me following the missed workshop. This means attending office hours or scheduling a phone call, not simply sending an email asking what you've missed. Fellows are permitted one absence per semester of the fellowship. Anything more will negatively impact your participation grade, as well as make it difficult for you to participate fully. While we understand that life happens, we ask that you make every effort to attend all meetings. Exceptions are afforded at the discretion of the professor on a case-by-case basis.

### **Communication**

It is paramount that we have open and active lines of communication during the fellowship. To that end, fellows are expected to use and check their FAU email, as well as Canvas regularly. Important information about meetings, assignments, readings, and more will be communicated via email and Canvas.

### **Canceled Class**

Due to the number of faculty involved in this course/Fellowship it is extraordinarily unlikely that class would be canceled. If, however, class is canceled every effort will be taken to notify you as far in advance of the session as possible. Should a session be canceled you will be informed of how the following sessions and assignments may be adjusted in light of the cancellation. It is the responsibility of course participants to stay apprised of these possible changes.

### **Written Work**

All written work must be typed or word-processed and submitted via Canvas.

### **Late Work**

Deadlines must be honored. They are established to help you progress through the fellowship effectively. Late work or any work turned in after the deadline will receive a letter grade and a half deduction in points. Further, work must be submitted within two weeks of the deadline to receive any credit.

### **Plagiarism**

Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. Your paper would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

- \* Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- \* Submit a paper you have already submitted for a different class.
- \* Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- \* Submit a paper in which you “cut and paste” or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

### **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center**

*Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish*

*to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>*

## **Disability Policy**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas/](http://www.fau.edu/sas/).*

## **Code of Academic Integrity**

*Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).*

## **Working Schedule**

*All individual sessions are subject to change.*

### **January 11**    Communication Strategies

9:00-9:45      Mindfulness

9:45-10:15    Dedicated group work (community inventory due)

10:15-11:30   Josh Hirsch, Media Communications Strategy Session

11:45-12:45   Lunch

1:00-3:00      Improv U (Anthony Francis), Process not product: Discovering yourself through improv

### **Reading:**

<https://blogs.proquest.com/general/educators-consider-the-benefits-of-improv/>

**January 25** Ideas into Practice 1

9:00-9:45 Mindfulness

9:45-10:15 Dedicated group work (check-in with mentors)

10:15-12:00 Tara Laxer, Legislative strategies, policy goals, civil discourse

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-3:00 Jade Zaroff, Entertainment for Change, #SDGGroove, United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals

**February 1** Environmental Focus Part 1, *Field visit**Meets at Spanish River Park*

9:00-11:00 Beach Cleanup

11:00-11:45 Dedicated group work

11:45-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:30 Mindfulness

1:30-3:00 Art and Environmental Activism

Reflection #1 assigned

**February 8** Ideas into Practice 2

9:00-9:45 Mindfulness

9:45-10:30 FAU NOW

10:30-12:00 Human Microphone Exercise, Dr. Nicole Morse

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 TBA

2:00-3:00 Dedicated group work

Reflection #1 due

**February 22** Environmental Focus Part 2, with Pine Jog (West WPB)*Drive and meet there or ride the bus. BUS LEAVES FAU at 8:30am.*

Address: 6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33415



9:00-9:45 Mindfulness  
 9:45-10:30 Dedicated group work  
 10:30-12:00 TBA  
 12:00-1:00 Lunch  
 1:00-3:00 TBA

**March 7** Advocacy

9:00-9:45 Mindfulness  
 9:45-10:30 Dedicated group work  
 10:30-12:00 Deandre Poole, Leadership  
 12:00-1:00 Lunch  
 1:00-3:00 Mental/Behavioral Health advocacy and action. (Elayna Toby Singer and Lauren Zuchman)

**April 4** Ideas into Practice 3

9:00-9:45 Mindfulness  
 9:45-10:30 Dedicated group work  
 10:30-12:00 Dr. Nicole Morse, Individual oral presentations  
 12:00-1:00 Lunch  
 1:00-3:00 Ann Marie Milano, Fundraising

*Due: mini grant proposal*

*Due: Budget and Fundraising Strategy Due April 10*

**April 18** Practice Presentations

9:00-9:15 Morning group meeting  
 9:15-10:00 Mindfulness  
 10:00-10:30 Group One Presentation and discussion  
 10:30-11:00 Group Two Presentation and discussion  
 11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-11:45 Group Three Presentation and discussion  
11:45-12:30 Lunch and break  
12:45-1:15 Group Four Presentation and discussion  
1:15-1:45 Group Five Presentation and discussion  
1:45-2:00 Break  
2:00-2:45 Group sessions and final prep for public presentation  
2:45-3:00 Group afternoon meeting

*Due April 20: Project report and communication strategy due. Also, upload presentation to Canvas*

Reflection #2 assigned

## **April 25**

Evening Public Event, Group Presentations, Awards Ceremony

*Stay tuned...*

Final reaction paper due April 30th