

## **PLAN 741: Homeless and What to Do About It**

Spring 2007  
Saunders 116

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### **Course Overview**

#### **Instructor's Assumptions and Approach**

This course will be run in a seminar style, composed of a mixture of presentations, and a considerable amount of discussion involving every student in the class. No one will be allowed to sit silently for an entire semester, and I may call on anyone at any time to comment on the readings or even to assist in the presentation. Therefore, be prepared to participate at all times. To this end, I ask you to observe a few ground rules:

You are required to read the course material before each week's class, according to the schedule outlined in the syllabus. In a course of this size, you will not be able to hide if you're not prepared. Note that class participation counts for a significant portion of your grade. Because class participation is important, I require attendance. If you must miss a class, I require a call or e-mail in advance.

### **Course Requirements**

- I. Attendance and class participation. Given the importance of class discussion, regular attendance and participation are important. 20%
- II. Weekly journal. Reflect on readings, discuss insights and concerns. 1-3 pages 10%
- III. Written assignment 1 (10%): Homeless Count January 28. Write up your reflection and evaluation of the homeless count process due February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- IV. Written assignment 2: (30%) Students will be also assigned to write testimony on a bill dealing with the homeless issue. Testimony will be limited to two pages in length. Students will present their memo at the legislature, listen to others testify and write up a reflection on the process.
- V. Research Paper / Project (30%)  
Each student will have an option to write a research paper or do a project that deals with Homelessness. Topics and projects must be approved by the instructor. The research paper must be 10-15 pages in length, include a bibliography and be presented and discussed in class. The other option is to work on a project with an organization working with the homeless.

### **Text: Reader at Professional Image**

### **Web Sites**

Most of the assigned readings are on the web. There are several key sites with which you should be familiar. I encourage you to bookmark them so you can find them easily.

1. National Alliance to End Homelessness <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>
2. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness <http://www.usich.gov/>
3. Beyond Shelter <http://www.beyondshelter.org/home.html>
4. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has its own web site with information about its programs, policies, databases, and many links. HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research (<http://www.huduser.org>) has its own site.
5. Harvard/MIT Joint Center on Housing Studies, <http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/>
6. Fannie Mae Foundation <http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/journals.shtml>
7. The National Low Income Housing Coalition focuses on ending America's affordable housing crisis. Their advocacy concentrates on those with the most serious housing problems, the lowest income households. <http://www.nlihc.org/>
8. Knowledgeplex. Affordable housing and community development resource. <http://www.knowledgeplex.org/>
9. National Housing Institute <http://www.nhi.org/online/issues.html>  
online journal: Shelterforce
10. Urban Institute <http://www.urban.org/housing/index.cfm>  
UI's stated mission "is to analyze policies, evaluate programs, and inform community development to improve social, civic, and economic well-being." The website has reports and articles on a number of issues including housing and homelessness.

## **January 12 Overview**

### **January 19 How big a problem is Homelessness?**

Homeless Counts (2007)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/1440>

Hunger and Homeless Survey (2005)

<http://www.sodexhousa.com/HungerAndHomelessnessReport2004.pdf>

Momeni, Jamshid (1990) Homelessness in the United States (Handout)

### **January 26 Homeless in Hawaii**

Honolulu Advertiser Special Report Homeless in Waianae (handout)

Special Report: Homeless on the Waianae Coast

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/current/ln/homeless>

Hawaii's Action Plan to End Homelessness (2004)

### **January 28 Homeless Count (Waianae 5-8pm)**

### **February 2 Assessing the Homeless Problem: What Do Know? What Don't We Know?**

SMS (2204) Homeless Point-in-Time Count Report (Handout)

"Critical Issues in Counting Homeless Persons: What's Behind the Numbers?"

Definitional Issues in Counting the Homeless"

[http://www.knowledgeplex.org/kp/text\\_document\\_summary/scholarly\\_article/refiles/hpd\\_0203\\_cordray.pdf](http://www.knowledgeplex.org/kp/text_document_summary/scholarly_article/refiles/hpd_0203_cordray.pdf)

### **Homeless Count Process Evaluation Due**

## **February 9 Historical Context**

Reader:

Kusner, Kenneth (2002) *Down & Out, On the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Chapters 1, 2 & 12.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homelessness\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States#Historical\\_background](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homelessness_in_the_United_States#Historical_background)

Riis, Jacob (1890) *How the Other Half Lives*

<http://www.authentichistory.com/postcivilwar/riis/contents.html>

## **February 16 Becoming homeless: the stories**

Reader:

Glasser, Irene and Rae Bridgman (1999) *Braving the Streets*

## **February 23 The Manufacture of Homelessness: Housing**

The Housing Affordability Crisis:

The State of the Nation's Housing 2006

<http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/markets/son2006/son2006.pdf>

Without Housing: Decades of Federal Housing Cutbacks, Massive Homelessness, and Policy Failures <http://www.wraphome.org>

Bodaken, Michael (2002) The Increasing Shortage of Affordable Rental Housing in America: Action Items for Preservation, Housing Facts and Findings, 4, 4:4-7

<http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hff/v4i4-preservation.shtml>

Rengert, Kristopher M. (2002) Why Is Affordable Rental Housing Being Lost? Housing Facts and Findings, 4, 4

<http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hff/v4i4-affordable.shtml>

## **March 2 Right to Housing Debate**

Reader: Bratt, Rachel, Michael Stone and Chester Hartman (2006) A Right to Housing Housing Policy Debate Forum summary, vol 9, 2 at

<http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd/v9i2-hartman.shtml>

Hartman, Chester. The Case for a Right to Housing

Carr, James Comment on Chester Hartman's "The Case for a Right to Housing": The Right to "Poverty with a Roof" - A Response to Hartman

Salin, Peter D Comment on Chester Hartman's "The Case for a Right to Housing": Housing Is a Right? Wrong!

## **March 9 Manufacture of Homelessness: Income**

Reader:

Rossi, Peter *Down and Out in America* (1989)

Rodgers, Harrell (2006) *American Poverty in A New Era of Reform*

Shipler, David (2004) *Working poor : invisible in America*

## **March 16 Mental Illness and Homelessness**

Culhane, Dennis (2002) Public Service Reductions Associated with Placement of Homeless Persons with Severe Mental Illness in Supportive Housing

[http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_1301\\_culhane.pdf](http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_1301_culhane.pdf)

*Evaluability Assessment of Discharge Planning and the Prevention of Homelessness:*

*Final Report* 2.36MB ( By G. Moran, R. Semansky, E. Quinn, R. Noftsinger, and T.

Koenig). Washington, DC: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2005  
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/05/discharge-planning/report.pdf>

## **Written Assignment 2 Due: Testimony and summary of legislative process on a bill dealing with homelessness**

### **March 23 Public Policy Responses**

Kristen Brown (1999) Outlawing Homelessness

<http://www.nhi.org/online/issues/106/brown.html>

#### **McKinney-vento Homeless Assistance Act:**

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/rulesandregs/laws/>

Report to the President and Congress on the Implementation of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. (Text) Washington DC: U.S. Department of Education, 2006

<http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/publications/default.asp>

#### **Criminalization of Homeless in US Cities**

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/crimreport/report.pdf>

Reader:

Feldman, Leonard (2004) Citizens Without Shelter

### **March 30 Spring Recess**

### **April 6 Good Friday**

### **April 13 Exploring Solutions and Alternatives**

Burt, Martha (2001) What will it take to end Homelessness?

<http://www.urban.org/publications/310305.html>

Culhane, Dennis P. (2002) New Strategies and Collaborations Target Homelessness

<http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hff/v4i5-strategies.shtml>

Roma, Nan (2002) "Why America *Can* End Homelessness in Ten Years"

<http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hff/v4i5-homeless.shtml>

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (Review 5 Innovations)  
Innovations

<http://www.usich.gov/innovations/index.html>

### **April 20 Exploring Solutions and Alternatives:**

National Alliance to End Homelessness(2006) A New Vision: What is in Community Plans to End Homelessness?  
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/1397>

Good . . . to Better . . . to Great: Innovations in 10-Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness in Your Community. 871KB Washington, DC: U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2005.  
<http://www.ich.gov/slocal/Innovations-in-10-Year-Plans.pdf>

**Compare and contrast 10 year plans:** Choose 3-4 plans from list from Cities and Regions with plans: <http://www.ich.gov/slocal/10yrchronic.html>

### **April 27 Presentations**