Community Development for a Sustainable Society

Online Course

The course presents a systems approach to analysing needs at different levels - social, education, work, ethics etc - endangering a community's sustainability. The goal is to design community structures to incorporate diverse groups in the community and to organise them into a collaborative effort encompassing a variety of activities to address the needs. The course includes a specialised software package (SmCube) that students are trained to use as a tool to implement these new ideas in a practical way. In brief students will learn how to:

1. Identify needs in a community
2. Understand how compound needs results in community breakdown
3. Design community structures that incorporate diverse groups in the community - police, welfare agencies, hospitals, youth/sports clubs, schools etc.
4. Organise them into a collaborative effort encompassing a variety of activities to address the needs
5. Use a specialised software package to implement new ideas in a practical way

You may download and look through the following articles to gain a better insight of the philosophy behind this approach and some of its applications:

(2006) Samaritan Ethics, Systems Science and Society. *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, Vol. 19, No. 5.

(2004) Where there is No Vision the People Perish: Ethical Vision and Community Sustainability. *Systems Research and Behavioural Science*, 21:1-15.

(2004) Normative Evaluation of Community Projects: A Multi-Modal Systems Approach. *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, 17: 83-102.

Resources

Students will need to own or have access to the following resources:

- Personal Computer or Laptop with MS Windows 98 or later version.
- Access to the Internet and email

(As part of the registration fee, students are provided with SmCube software.)

Text books:

de Raadt, J. D. R. (2000) Redesign and Management of Communities in Crisis. Parkland, Florida, Universal Publishers. ISBN 1-58112-721-9

de Raadt, J. D. R. (2001) A Method and Software for Designing Viable Social Systems. Parkland, Florida, Universal Publishers. ISBN 1-58112-658-1

(A printed or electronic copy (for downloading) of these books can be ordered through the Internet from: www.universal-publishers.com)

Fees:

$522 (AASW member); $605 (non-AASW member). The fees include SmCube software (for personal study only and not for commercial use)

The course comprises the following units:		
Units	Hours*	Points
1 Introduction to Systems Methodology	8	16
2 Overview of the Method	5	10
3 Data Collection and Handling	5	10
4 Simple Social Analysis	6	12
5 Advanced Social Analysis	8	16
6 Social Systems Design	8	16
Total	40	80
* The hours listed in this table are an estimate. Students are required to keep a log book of the time spent working in each unit and report the number of hours to the mentor. Based on this report, the institute will issue a certificate awarding the points at the end of the course. However, a certificate of the partial points completed will also be issued on request for students who are carrying the course over to the next accreditation year.		
The course must be completed within 18 months from the date of registration. This will allow students to spread their points over two CPE cycles.		