Overview and Objectives:
This course provides hands-on training in the participatory research method known as concept mapping (CM). CM gives community members and other stakeholders a unique chance to have their own words communicate ideas and concepts. Research participants contribute directly in the processing of this information as it directly relates to their community and intervention needs. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with example applications of the research method and to provide training related to concept mapping data collection and analysis. Discussion, interactive learning exercises, and examples of current research will be used to provide an understanding of CBPR and the associated strengths and limitations.

Responsibilities:
- Completion of the assigned readings for each class is expected to be done prior to class.
- Student will be assigned 2 homework assignments that will be graded. All homework assignments will be assigned with a due date and are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. No assignments will be accepted via email.
- Attendance and participation in class are required.
- Evaluation criteria for this module will be based on completion of the homework assignments and course participation.

Course Requirements:
- Homework assignments 20%
- Final paper 30%
- Class participation and attendance 50%

Attendance Policy:
- Students are expected to attend each class. If you are unable to attend, please contact the course instructor(s) immediately.

Course Grading Scale:
- For the computation of the final course grade as well as for the course assignments, the following grading scale will be used:

  90 – 100=A...86 – 89=B+...80 – 85=B...76 – 79=C+...70 – 75=C...60 – 65=D...66 – 69=D+...< 60=F

Required Readings(s):
- The following text is required: Kane M and Trochim WMK Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation, Sage
Website resources:
- www.conceptsystems.org

Academic Integrity:
Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity (http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

Disabilities:
If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Course Schedule

| Session 1: Introduction to Concept Mapping as a CBPR Research Method |

At the conclusion of this lecture, the student will be able to:
- Describe the concept mapping method and associated steps.
- Provide illustrative examples of how concept mapping has been used in CBPR.

Topics:
- Introduce concept mapping method.
- Provide illustrative examples of concept mapping in CBPR.

Required Reading(s):


Homework assignment(s):
Homework assignment #1: Due Session 2 (do not email - bring a hard copy to class)

Write a two page, double spaced paper that addresses:
- How concept mapping could be used in your own research
- Who the community research partners would be, why, and in what capacity
- What your research focus prompt and rating scales could be
- Who the stakeholders/participants would be
At the conclusion of this lecture, the student will be able to:
- Describe the process associated with developing and implementing a concept mapping project.
- Design the brainstorming session for a concept mapping project.

Topics:
- Design group project – determine focal question, rating scales and demographic questions.

Required Reading(s):
**Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation** Chapter 1. An Introduction to Concept Mapping
http://www.conceptsystems.com/content/category/concept-mapping.html

Review concept mapping needs assessment case studies

Review organizational development and strategic planning case studies

Homework assignment(s):
Complete online brainstorming for Class CM Project

Due Today:
Homework assignment #1
Session 3: Concept Mapping Exercise

At the conclusion of this lecture, the student will be able to:
- Conduct brainstorming session – synthesize results into master list.
- Enter data into concept systems software and program rating scales.

Topics:
- Class concept mapping project - collect brainstorming data, prepare sorting and rating online activities.

Required Reading(s):
Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation.
Chapter 2. Preparing for Concept Mapping
Chapter 3. Generating the Ideas
Chapter 4. Structuring the Statements

Homework assignment(s):
Enter your concept mapping sorting and rating data into the online concept systems project.

Homework assignment #2: Due Session 4 (do not email - bring a hard copy to class)
After completing the sorting and rating online, write a one page, double spaced paper addressing your experience and thoughts (positives, negatives, strengths, limitations, etc.)
Session 4: Concept Mapping Exercise Continued

At the conclusion of this lecture, the student will be able to:
  • Debrief about brainstorming, sorting and rating activities.

Topics:
  • Class concept mapping project – analyze sorting and rating data.

Required Reading(s):
Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation.
Chapter 5. Concept Mapping Analysis

Homework assignment(s):
Final Paper: Due Session 5

Using the concept mapping data collected as part of the class, produce a final paper interpreting the results (5 pages). Include a point map, cluster map and an assessment of the rating data (e.g. pattern matches). Further details and how to create these maps will be illustrated in class.

Due Today:
Homework assignment #2
Session 5: Concept Mapping Exercise Finalized

At the conclusion of this lecture, the student will be able to:
  • Conduct Interpretation Group session.

Topics:
  • Class concept mapping project --- advanced analyses.

Required Reading(s):
Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation
Chapter 6. Interpreting the Maps
Chapter 9. Mapping the Future

Due Today:
Final Paper (*do not email - bring a hard copy to class*)