Learn about the power of community engagement to support social change!

SOCI 2180/ANTH 2180: Foundations of Community Engagement

Fall 2021

Have you ever been part of a community – or wanted to be an ally to a community – which needed a voice in creating change? Community engagement is a process by which communities can achieve common goals, organizations can ensure they are meeting their constituency needs, businesses can work to align with community values, and governments can engage citizens on proposed policies and laws.

This course aims to introduce you to the power of community engagement while giving you an understanding of the limitations. Community engagement can support marginalized communities by, for example, identifying a need for a physical space to be more accessible. It can also, if not done carefully, reinforce existing hierarchies of power by excluding groups such as racialized individuals and communities if their experiences are not represented. Creating an inclusive environment is a complex undertaking; this will be a focus of our course.

We will work online with a community organization to support their community engagement activities. As we do so, we will analyse processes involved in inclusive and successful engagement and learn firsthand the satisfaction of doing this work.

The class will meet on Zoom each week. A stable internet connection and webcam is required.

Comments from past students

"Even with an online learning platform, this class was the most hands-on learning experience I have gained thus far at Carleton. I am doing a Bachelor of Social Work and want to go into policy and advocacy, but this experience has made me consider looking into community engagement as well. I now also want to take the Minor in Community Engagement when it becomes available. Overall, a wonderful learning experience!"

"This course expands your mind to see the possibilities for change and to be part of that change."

"This is a great course even being online. The course was honestly really engaging and implemented both practical experience and theory. I really enjoyed it, it definitely inspired me to want to pursue working in community engagement."

"This course has been a different experience than any other I have taken at Carleton. The opportunity to speak your mind and listen as others do the same has been the most rewarding aspect. The hands-on experience was also valuable in applying the theory we learned throughout the term to a real-world situation. I highly recommend this valuable learning experience."

SOCI 2180/ANTH 2180 is the foundational course in the new Minor in Community Engagement. The minor will support you to achieve better outcomes for communities and can be added to many undergraduate programs at Carleton University. For further details on the course or minor, contact the instructor, Dr. Deborah Conners, at deborah.conners@carleton.ca, or visit the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Undergraduate Calendar.