



## SoWo 799: COMMUNITY-LED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Engages students in grassroots **community capacity building** to integrate economic development, social justice and environmental stewardship. Collaborate with Resourceful Communities. Practice participatory research and engage with grassroots projects through service-learning assignments.

Partially funded by a **Service-Learning Course Development Grant through the Carolina Center for Public Service**

### FACULTY

Marie Weil, UNC-CH School of Social Work

### COMMUNITY-LED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This course is designed and implemented in partnership with The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities program (RC). RC supports a network of 500+ grassroots organizations across North Carolina. The triple bottom line is the foundation of their work, integrating environmental stewardship, sustainable economic development and social justice. They follow community partners' lead, supporting local goals and opportunities with local assets.

Designed to support active and reflective learning, students in this course will engage with grassroots organizations and build local capacity to achieve locally determined sustainable development projects and participatory research. Lectures, discussions and presentations from RC staff, community partners and other experts will enrich learning and prompt reflection about the complexities of collaboration, participatory research and projects with grassroots groups. The course seeks to prepare students with knowledge, skills and experience to work respectfully and effectively to build a movement for grassroots sustainable development.

### COURSE STRUCTURE:

- 14-week graduate level seminar offered Spring 2016 (3-hour seminar meeting Mondays 2-4:50, School of Social Work, 3 credit hours)
- Field trips to RC partner communities
- Classes will include lectures on theory and practice of sustainable development with emphasis on grassroots project development, goal setting, implementation and participatory research to support local goals.
- Community partners will lead class discussion on planning and implementation.
- Assignments: Sustainable development project plus paper or participatory research plan plus paper

NEW GRADUATE COURSE SPRING 2016!  
CREDIT TOWARD GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT  
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AND VISIT  
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