

DePaul University
School for New Learning
HC 288 Cooperatives: Building Communities of Peace and Justice
Winter Quarter 2004
Loop Campus - Wednesday 6 -9
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Course Description

Over 750 million people participate in cooperatives worldwide. From housing cooperatives to credit unions owned by those who use them, from joint employee-ownership and management of workplaces to energy co-ops, farm co-ops, and food co-ops, human beings are re-discovering their power to create affordable homes, worker-centered jobs, and sustainable environments for the community. In the face of corporate globalization, when the gap between rich and poor has led to increased homelessness, joblessness, and environmental degradation, people are joining together at an unprecedented rate to form cooperatives for their own well-being. This course provides a brief overview of the history and theories of various forms of cooperative living; examines examples from the U.S. and internationally, with a special emphasis on coops operating in and around Chicago. This course also provides training in consensus decision-making and facilitating democratic participation to illustrate the joys and challenges cooperators face. Guest speakers include people involved in the building of the car cooperative (I-GO), housing cooperatives in Chicago, and local participation in food coops.

Faculty Biographical Sketch

Maureen Dolan, Swami Shraddhananda, is an ordained priest and a certified Hatha Yoga Teacher, and taught "Women's Voices in Peacemaking" at SNL last quarter. She has been teaching yoga and meditation for several years at YMCAs, retreats, workshops, and at DePaul University. She advises seminarians and conducts weddings and other rituals. For over 30 years, she has been engaged in social justice work in the peace movement, union organizing, community coalitions, and women's organizations. She has served as Executive Director of the Chicago Electric Options Campaign, and as Executive Director of Women United for a Better Chicago; Assistant Director of the Public Interest Law Initiative; Coordinator of Artemisia Gallery; Recording Secretary for the UWA-UE union; Co-Chair of the Eighth Congressional District Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; member of the Spiritual Life Task Force of the Parliament of World Religions; served on numerous boards of peace and justice organizations, including the Chicago Mutual Housing Network; published several articles on peace and justice issues, and is currently working on a book. She resides at a limited equity housing alternative, the Logan Square Cooperative, which uses consensus decision making. With 11 other residents engaged in various forms of social justice, she works to strengthen community and affordable housing in the neighborhoods of Chicago. She also is active in United for Peace and Justice. She received her B.A. at Northeastern University in 1986, Lawyers' Assistant Certificate from Roosevelt University in 1988, and graduated from the Temple of Kriya Yoga Seminary Program in 1995, with a concentration on Eastern Philosophy and Comparative Religion. Maureen also has two grown sons who work in the social justice arena.

Competence Offerings for the Course

L7 - Collaborative Learning -Can learn collaboratively and examine the skills, knowledge, and values that contribute to such learning.

A1B - Can use public or private institutions as resources for exploring arts or ideas.

A-5 - Creativity.

H3 D - Can employ the skills of negotiation, mediation, or interpersonal communication in the resolution of a problem.

H5 - Can analyze issues and problems from a global perspective.

The Learning Experience

This course provides a brief overview of the history and theories of various forms of cooperative living; examines examples from the U.S. and internationally, with a special emphasis on coops operating in and around Chicago. Moving from the general to the particular, this course also provides training in consensus decision-making, facilitating democratic participation in groups, and linking self-interest to group interest in order to illustrate the joys and challenges cooperators face. Working through small groups in the class, each person will contribute to

creating a mini-cooperative that is based on skill-sharing, consensus, and produces an end-product from this cooperative venture. Guest speakers include people involved in the building of the car cooperative (I-GO), housing cooperatives in Chicago, and local participation in food coops. Centering techniques, reflection in journal writing, guest speakers, videos, experiments in consensus building, and other experiential learning will enhance the readings and small group projects. Connections between the global and the local, between the personal and the political, between the self and others will be drawn. The goals of this course are to provide tools for critical thinking and action on new ways to cooperate with others; to present hopeful community alternatives for improving housing, work, and the environment; and to broaden the understanding of choices available to counter corporate globalization. This course aims to promote creativity, courage, community.

Required Reading & Resource Materials (may be amended)

Weavers of Dreams: Founders of the Modern Co-operative Movement by David J. Thompson

Surplus Powerlessness - The Psychodynamics of Everyday Life and the Psychology of Individual and Social Transformation, by Rabbi Michael Lerner

New Neighbors: A Case Study in Cooperative Housing, by Matthew Cooper and Margaret Critchlow Rodman

From Mondragon to America: Experiments in Community Economic Development by Greg MacLeod

Also:

Building United Judgement, Center for Conflict Resolution (excerpts will be provided)

Intentional Communities Magazine (sample copies will be distributed)

Affordable Cooperative Housing in Chicago: A Practical Guide, Chicago Mutual Housing Network (will be distributed)

Attendance and Participation

A substantial percentage of the final grade relates directly to attendance, participation, and in class reflections. Regular attendance is therefore required, and classroom participation in discussion and activities is essential to success in completing the course. If you anticipate missing more than one class session in the quarter, it would be best for you not to enroll in this course.

Weekly Work Load

Students should anticipate spending approximately five hours per week on assigned readings and other requirements.

Course Requirements

Regular classroom participation.

Journal reflection writing on readings and experiences.

Small group project in *consensus decision-making* and *conflict management*¹ (might include: small group field trip to a coop or small group creation of some end-product accomplished in cooperative way). 5 -7 page paper on the experience.

Final Paper 8-10 pages for one competency.

Final Paper 10-12 pages for two competencies.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students will adhere to DePaul University's policy on academic integrity.

Criteria for Assessment

Grades will be determined by the following criteria:

Class attendance and participation in project	40% (Small group and in-class participation)
Written assignments, in and out of class	30% (journal and small paper)
Final paper	30%

Course Schedule

Week 1

- * Course Introduction
- * Centering techniques
- * Lecture
- * Small Group Discussion

- * Large Group Discussion
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 2- Visit websites on cooperatives and:
 - brainstorm in small group by email/meeting about project
 - read *Weavers of Dreams* and begin *Surplus Powerlessness*
 - consensus handouts

Week 2

- * Centering techniques
- * Review
- * Discuss Assignment
- * Class project
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * Assignment for Week 3 (finish *Weavers of Dreams* and continue *Surplus Powerlessness*)
 - Schedule consensus experiment conclusion if not done already

Week 3

- * Centering
- * Review
- * Discuss Reading Assignment
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * **Deadline for scheduling of Consensus Experiment**
- * Assignment for Week 4 (Begin *New Neighbors* and continue *Surplus Powerlessness*)

Week 4

- * Centering
- * Review
- * Guest speaker
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 5 -*Affordable Cooperative Housing in Chicago*
 - Finish *New Neighbors*
 - Paper due next week

Week 5

- * Centering
- * Review
- * **Deadline for completion of first 5-7 page paper to be collected on this date**
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * Deadline for Final Paper proposal
- * Assignment for Week 6 - begin *Mondragon* and continue *Surplus Powerlessness*

Week 6

- * Centering
- * Review
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * Guest speaker
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 7 -Continue *Mondragon* and *Surplus Powerlessness*
 - start final paper
 - prepare presentation for class

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Week 7

- * Centering
- * Review
- * Class presentations on projects
- * Discussion: Small and Large

- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 8 -work on final paper, finish other readings

Week 8

- * Centering
- * Review
- * Discuss Reading Assignment
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 9 - Various handouts, work on final paper, bring a draft to class

Week 9

- * Centering
- * Review
- * Lecture/video
- * Discussion: Small and Large Share draft of final paper with classmate
- * In class writing
- * No assignments - Final Paper Due in 1 week

Week 10 * Centering

- * Review
- * Discuss Reading Assignments
- * Guest speaker or video
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * **Final Paper due**
- * Evaluations

Week 11

- * Centering
- * Review
- * One on one meetings
- * Synthesis
- * Discussion: Small and Large

Websites:

www.ic.org
www.coophousing.org
www.wisc.edu.uwcc
www.chicagomutual.org