

# UP 574 - DECENTRALISM/STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITIES

SPRING 1989

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## COURSE OUTLINE

- I. BACKGROUND
  - Current environmental/social problems and trends
  - Decentralism: A solution worth exploring
  - Principles of decentralism
- II. CASE STUDIES
- III. FUNCTIONAL REQUISITES OF SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES
  - Management functions
  - Production functions
  - Allocation functions
  - Staffing functions
- IV. PERSONAL REWARDS FROM DECENTRALISM
  - The psychological effect of simple lifestyles
  - Decentralist lifestyles in the urban setting
- V. SMALL TOWN PLANNING
- VI. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
- VII. DECENTRALISM: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECT

## ASSIGNMENTS

|                                    |         |                |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Mini Paper                         | May 23  | (20% of grade) |
| Reading Summaries                  |         | (20% of grade) |
| Term Paper                         | June 22 | (30% of grade) |
| Participation (discussion, leader) |         | (30% of grade) |

## COURSE MATERIALS

A course pack is available at Dollar Bill Copying, 611 Church St., 665-9200.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS

|        | Tuesdays  | Thursdays                                  |
|--------|---|--|
| Week 1 |   | 5/4 INTRODUCTION                           |
| Week 2 | 5/9 BACKGROUND  | 5/11 BACKGROUND                            |
| Week 3 | 5/16 CASE STUDIES                                     | 5/18 CASE STUDIES                          |
| Week 4 | 5/23 FUNCTIONAL REQUISITES<br>(Mangmt) Mini paper due | 5/25 FUNCTIONAL REQUISITES<br>(Production) |
| Week 5 | 5/30 FUNCTIONAL REQUISITES<br>(Allocation)            | 6/1 FUNCTIONAL REQUISITES<br>(Staffing)    |
| Week 6 | 6/6 PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS                            | 6/8 PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS                 |
| Week 7 | 6/13 SMALL TOWN PLANNING                              | 6/15 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS                 |
| Week 8 | 6/20 PROBLEMS & PROSPECTS                             | Term paper due Thurs June 22               |

## I. BACKGROUND

### MAY 4

Kahn, M. (undated) Some thoughts about seminars. University of California at Santa Cruz. Unpublished. [9 pp.]  
[Handout]

### MAY 9-11

#### PROBLEMS

Wilford, J.N. (1987) "A tough-minded ecologist comes to the defense of Malthus." The New York Times, June 30.  
[1 p.]

Baker, R. (1989) "Motoring for a fall." The New York Times, May 5. [1 p.]

Koshland, D.E. (1988) "For whom the bell tolls." Science, September 16. 241:1405. [1 p.]

Michael, D.N. and W.T. Anderson (1987) "Now that 'Progress' no longer unites us." New Options, 33:1-2. [2 pp.]

Poona Indictment (1978) "Commentary: The perversion of science and technology – An indictment." pp. 7-9. [2 pp.]

Glover, C.E. [Editor] (1986) "Natural disasters: The human connection." A Cox Newspapers Special Report. [30 pp.] [Handout]

#### PROSPECTS

Rodale, R. (1988) Regeneration: Building healthy communities, 4:1-12. Nov/Dec. [12 pp.]

De Young, R. and S. Kaplan (1988) "On averting the tragedy of the commons." Environmental Management, 12(3).  
[19 pp.]

Johnson, W. (1985) "The end of an era, not the end of the world," in The Future Is Not What It Used To Be. Chapter 2, pp. 15-40. [25 pp.]

Ehrlich, A.H. and P.R. Ehrlich (1985) "Population and development misunderstood." The Amicus Journal, 8:8-10. [3 pp.]

Vermont Decentralist League (1977) "Statement of principles." [1 p.]

Borsodi, R. (originally 1933) "Flight from the city," in Weimer, City and Country in America. pp. 279-289. [9 pp.]

Van Til, J. (1979) "Spatial form and structure in a possible future." APA Journal, July, pp. 318-328. [9 pp.]

Van Dresser, P. (1938) "The technics of decentralization," from Free America. [2 pp.]

Sale, K. (1980) "The decentralist tradition," in K. Sale, Human Scale. pp. 443-454. [10 pp.]

Fox, D.R. (1985) "Psychology, ideology, utopia and the commons." American Psychologist, 40:48-58. [10 pp.]

## II. CASE STUDIES

### MAY 16-18

Lynch, D. (1987) "The Stewardship Community". Integrity International. (May-June). Read pages 5 through 7,  
scan the remainder. [2 pp.]

McRae, R. (1987) Steward's Journal. (Fall). [19 pp.]

Lull, H.W. (1976) "Koinonia updated." The Christian Century, October 13, 1976. [4 pp.]

Kumar, S. (1976) "Homegrown technology: Gandhi's revolution goes on." Undercurrents. [2 pp.]

- Holloway, M. (1951) "Oneida," in M. Holloway, Heavens on Earth: Utopian Communities in America 1680-1880. Chapter 10, pp. 179-197. [17 pp.]
- Department of Interior (1935) "A homestead and hope," Bulletin No. 1, Division of Subsistence Homesteads. pp. 5...18. [13 pp.]
- Mullin, J.M. (1982) "Henry Ford and field and factory." APA Journal. Autumn 1982, pp. 419-429. [10 pp.]
- Los Angeles Times (1983) "Yesterday's relaxed pace of life lost in hectic modern times." Ann Arbor News. April 24, 1983. [2 pp.]
- Cook, L. (1982) "Some old-fashioned horse sense." Detroit Free Press. [1 pp.]
- Schwieder, E. and D. Schwieder (1975) "Chapter 4 – Economic organization and Chapter 6 – Mobility and new communities," A Peculiar People: Iowa's Old Order Amish. pp. 37-53 and 80-93. [26 pp.]
- Bender, T. (1978) "New values," in L. de Moll and G. Coe (Eds.) Stepping Stones: Appropriate Technology and Beyond. pp. 47-51. [5 pp.]

### III. FUNCTIONAL REQUISITES OF SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES

There are at least four main functional requisites of self-reliant systems (see Feldt 1985). These are the functions of management, production, allocation and staffing. Each is made up of the sub-items listed and each will be discussed with regard to decentralist communities.

| DATE   | TOPIC  |
|--------|--|
| -----  | -----  |
| May 23 | MANAGEMENT: Decisions; enforcement, boundaries, ecobalance |
| May 25 | PRODUCTION: Food, shelter, clothing, energy, fabrication   |
| May 30 | ALLOCATION: Goods, services, information                   |
| June 1 | STAFFING: Health, training, recreation, history, culture   |

#### **TUESDAY – MAY 23 – MANAGEMENT**

- Feldt, A.G. (1985) "Functional Requisites of Social Systems." [3 pp.]
- Kinkade, K. (1973) excerpt on governance and mutual criticism, in A Walden Two Experiment. pp. 50-55 and 150-163. [19 pp.]
- Brigham, N. (1979) "MNS Consensus Process." in P. Freundlich, C. Collins and M. Wenig (Eds.) A Guide to Cooperative Alternatives. p. 132. [1 p.]
- De Young R. (1981) "Consensus decision making." [6 pp.]
- Kottler, M. (1969) "The neighborhood corporation," in M. Kottler Neighborhood Government. pp. 39-50. [11 pp.]
- The Institute for Community Economics (1982) "Chapter 2 – The community land trust model." The Community Land Trust Handbook. pp. 18-35. [17 pp.]
- Felder, D.W. (1982) "Appendix One – Model set of covenants and restrictions." The Best Investment: Land in a Loving Community. pp. 154-161. [7 pp.]

#### **THURSDAY – MAY 25 – PRODUCTION**

- Ruttle, J. (1986) "Small-space regeneration gardens." Rodale's Organic Gardening. 33:26-28,30,32. [5 pp.]
- Merrill, R. (1976) "Toward a self-sustaining agriculture," in R. Merrill, Radical Agriculture. pp. 284-327. [29 pp.]

- Myers, J. (1982) "Permaculture: Can small-time farming save the world?" Ann Arbor News. October 7, 1982. [2 pp.]
- Turner, J.F.C. (1976) "Housing as a verb," in J.F.C. Turner and R. Fichter Freedom to Build. pp. 148-175. [24 pp.]
- Stavrianos, L.S. (1978) "From aristo-technology to demo-technology," in L.S. Stavrianos The Promise of the Coming Dark Age. pp. 26-55. [29 pp.]
- Odum, H.T. (1978) "Energy, ecology and economics," in L. de Moll and G. Coe (Eds.) Stepping Stones: Appropriate Technology and Beyond. pp. 19-25. [7 pp.]
- DelCamp, J. (1979) "An energy blueprint for Ann Arbor," The Alchemist. November. [5 pp.]
- Todd, J. (1976) "A modest proposal: Science for the people," in R. Clarke, Notes for the Future. pp. 185-197. [12 pp.]

#### TUESDAY – MAY 30 – ALLOCATION

- Burns, S. (1978) "The household economy," in L. de Moll and G. Coe (Eds.) Stepping Stones: Appropriate Technology and Beyond. pp. 36-37. [2 pp.]
- Kinkade, K. (1973) excerpt on workscheduling, in A Walden Two Experiment. pp. 38-45. [6 pp.]
- Zablocki, B. (1971) "Community of goods," The Joyful Community. pp. 127-130. [4 pp.]
- Kropotkin, P.A. (1962) "Fields, factories and workshops." in D.R. Weimer City and Country in America. pp. 136-155. [18 pp.]
- Goodman, P. and P. Goodman (1962) "A new community: The elimination of the difference between production and consumption," in D.R. Weimer City and Country in America. pp. 232-243. [11 pp.]

#### THURSDAY – JUNE 1 – STAFFING

- Werner, D.B. (1976) "Health care and human dignity: A subjective look at community-based rural health programs in Latin America." pp.16-23. [8 pp.]
- Guttmacher, S. (1979) "Whole in body, mind and spirit." The Hastings Center. Volume 9, No. 2, April, 1979, pp. 15-20. [6 pp.]

### IV. PERSONAL REWARDS FROM DECENTRALISM

#### JUNE 6-8

- Kaplan, R. (1973) "Some psychological benefits of gardening." Environment and Behavior. Vol. 5, June 1973, pp. 145-162. [15 pp.]
- Schumacher, E.F. (1978) "Buddhist economics," in L. de Moll and G. Coe (Eds.) Stepping Stones: Appropriate Technology and Beyond. pp. 38-42. [4 pp.]
- Gregg, R. (1974) "Voluntary simplicity." Manas. Part I – 27:36, September 4, 1974 and Part II – 27:37, September 11, 1974. [7 pp.]
- De Young, R. (1985) "Satisfactions from conservation activities." Environmental Conservation. [8 pp.]
- Thoreau, H.D. (1854) "Walden," Into Nature. pp. 46-58. [12 pp.]
- Elgin, D. and Mitchell (1977) "Voluntary simplicity: Life-style of the future?" The Futurist. August, pp. 200...261. [14 pp.]

## V. SMALL TOWN PLANNING

JUNE 13

- Williams, H.S. (1986) "Barn raising: An old approach helps small towns today." Small Town. May-June, pp. 14-19. [4 pp.]
- Williams, H.A.W. (1980) "Small towns look to the future: Strategies for Growing Up Small." Small Town. July-August, 1980, pp. 8-19. [12 pp.]
- Denman, C.C. (1978) "Small towns are the future of America." in S. Kaplan and R. Kaplan [Eds.] Humanscape: Environments for People. pp. 274-279. [5 pp.]
- Williams, H.S. (1977) "Smallness and the small town." Small Town. pp. 7-15. [8 pp.]
- Eberhart, D. (19xx) "Toward an Awareness of special needs." Planning. Small Towns Institute, Ellensburg, Washington. [1 pp.]
- Ryner, P.C. (19xx) "Planning for a livable community." Planning. Small Towns Institute, Ellensburg, Washington. [2 pp.]
- Carlson, D. (19xx) "Small towns in an urban environment." Planning. Small Towns Institute, Ellensburg, Washington. [2 pp.]

## VII. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

JUNE 15

## VII. DECENTRALISM: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECT

JUNE 20

- Ophuls, W. (1977) "The politics of the sustainable society," in D.C. Pirages [Ed.] The Sustainable Society: Implications for Limited Growth. pp.157-171. [15 pp.]
- Johnson, W. (1985) "The pleasures of the new season" and "The new wealth," in The Future Is Not What It Used To Be. pp. 226-231. [6 pp.]
- Kaplan, S. and R. Kaplan (1982) "Prospect." Cognition and Environment. pp. 253-256. [2 pp.]

**For additional sources consult:**

Decentralism Bibliography. [Draft].