

# Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) 603

**Community Development** (Revision 5)

**Delivery mode:** [Grouped study](#) with [eText](#)

**Credits:** 3

**Area of study:** Arts

**Prerequisites:** None

**Precluded:** None

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  
for the current revision

**Notes:** Students in Group Study courses are advised that this syllabus may vary in key details in each instance of the course. Always refer to the Moodle site for the most up-to-date details on texts, assignment structure, and grading.

## Overview

Community development is the process of supporting and building communities through purposive action. Its practitioners apply theories and concepts that are related to the structures and participants involved. Building on analytical materials and skills, this course examines the nature of community in its variety of forms: issues and conditions that have an impact on communities; forces at work within communities, as well as those operating from outside; variations in community practice (economic and social development, social planning) and geographical setting; and applications in professional and academic fields as varied as education, literacy, economic development, health, social, and human services. Perspectives on the community that arise from policy setting, cross cultural relations, personal and global involvements, and practice strategies will also be examined, as will specific concerns of Indigenous communities.

In this course we explore prospects for a sophisticated understanding of community and deft interventions in a context of swift, often chaotic realignments. The focus will be local community autonomy, self help, mutual aid, and democratic process. An overriding goal will be the integration of themes, ideas, and practices.

The course introduces concepts and definitions; the historical background and growth of the discipline; case examples that illustrate the use of community development in city neighbourhoods, in rural settings, and in international or global issues; and cases related to fields of work (education, health, human services, etc.) and categories of people (First Nations, women, the poor, the homeless, etc.). Throughout the course we will analyze and critique ideological foundations, theoretical bases in the social sciences, and practices.

Avenues will be open for concentration on uses in professional and adjacent disciplines and among volunteer and private groups.

## Outline

Master of Arts – Interdisciplinary Studies 603 consists of five parts.


- Part I: Defining Concepts, Examining Foundational Ideas
- Part II: The Four Sets of Practices of Community Development
- Part III: Community Organization, Community Development, Social Planning, Community Economic Development
- Part IV: How Do Community Development Practices Become Useful to People?
- Part V: Final Project and Community Development Archive Development

## Learning outcomes

The course learning outcomes for MAIS 603 are fivefold. The course provides you with the opportunity to:

1. build knowledge of concepts and definitions of community development in a group setting.
2. study ideological foundations, theoretical bases, and practices.
3. collaboratively compile case studies of city, rural, and global examples.
4. identify categories of people who benefit from application of community development capacities.
5. examine the history of various community development practices.

## Evaluation

To receive credit for this course, students must participate in the online activities, successfully complete the assignments, and achieve a final mark of at least 60 percent. Students should be familiar with the Master of Arts—Interdisciplinary Studies [grading system](#) . Please note that it is the student's responsibility to maintain their program status. Any student who receives a grade of "F" in one course, or a grade of "C" in more than one course, may be required to withdraw from the program.

The following table summarizes the evaluation activities and the credit weights associated with them:

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Activity	Weight
Online participation	30%
Assignment 1: Short essay	30%
Assignment 2: Major paper	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Materials

Campfens, Hubert, ed. *Community Development around the World: Practice, Theory, Research, Training*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999.



Rubin, Herbert J., and Irene S. Rubin. *Community Organizing and Development*. 4th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2008.  (Print)

### eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).

### Other Materials

All other course materials can be accessed online through the course website.

## Important links

- › [Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies](#) [↗](#)
- › [Focus Areas](#) [↗](#)

› [Courses](#) 

› [Fees and Funding](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 5, June 14, 2021*

*Updated June 17, 2022, by Student & Academic Services*