

THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ELP 7630-001, University of Utah
Tuesdays, 7:15-9:45pm, SAEC 2151
Fall 2017

There are approximately 1,100 community and technical colleges in the United States that enroll nearly half of all undergraduate college students. Due to their open-access mission, low tuition costs, and service to local communities, community colleges are often referred to as “the people’s college.” For decades they have expanded access to higher education for historically underrepresented students, serving as a pipeline to 4-year colleges and an education and training provider to the local workforce. Yet, community colleges are often criticized for perpetuating social inequities and diverting the bachelor degree aspirations of their students. This course will engage this perennial equity debate and situate it within the history and evolution of community colleges. The course will explore the multiple and sometimes contradictory missions and functions of community colleges, the evolution of these missions, and their contemporary manifestations. Course topics include history and origins, local and state governance and administration, leadership, finance, curriculum, faculty, students, student outcomes, and contemporary issues and challenges, among others. The course critically examines community colleges and considers their position within the stratified system of postsecondary education in the United States.

Guest speakers and visitors include:

- Kent Phillippe, Associate VP for Research and Student Success, American Association of Community Colleges
- Chris Mullin, Executive Vice Chancellor, The Florida College System
- Salt Lake Community College Executive Leadership Team
- Faculty and student panels



Photo: Joliet Township High School in Illinois.
Site of the first public community college.

Instructor

Jason L. Taylor, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
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Professor Taylor’s research examines policies and factors that impact underserved and underrepresented students’ access to and success in college, with a particular interest in the community college sector. His research is published in top community college journals such as *Community College Review*, the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, and *New Directions for Community Colleges*.

To register, use registration #17529 or email Marilynn Howard (marilynn.howard@utah.edu) with questions.