

HOUSING & SOCIETY INTRODUCTION

The field of Housing in the United States historically has been a part of the curriculum in colleges and schools of Home Economics (now more often referred to as Human Ecology or Family and Consumer Sciences). Housing studies encompass all physical, sociological, psychological and economic parts of the house and surrounding community. Most programs offer a general introductory housing course and then more specific courses in policy, design, aging, and other related fields. Introductory housing courses vary from one college to another. While some offer a composite course covering all aspects of housing, others provide separate courses for the physical and sociological aspects.

Providing students with relevant, current information on the various subjects in an introductory housing course has been difficult. The Academic Section of the American Association of Housing Educators took on the project of developing a means of providing these covered resources for housing faculty. The idea of developing separate scholarly articles on topics covered in housing courses emerged as a viable way to provide the most current information from those who were most informed on a particular subject matter. This format also offers information in such a way that each housing faculty member can choose those articles that best meet the particular course requirements. The copyright for these articles is held by *Housing and Society*. Permission to copy may be obtained by contacting the journal editor listed at the back of this issue.

This project is planned to encompass two issues of *Housing and Society*. This first issue contains subject matter about the topics of Cultural Diversity, Community Development, Environment, and Space Planning. The second issue will contain articles related to the economic, social, psychological, political and cultural issues of housing. In order to be useful to students and teachers all articles have a similar format: 1) learning objectives are listed at the beginning of each article to assist students and teachers in their understanding of the subject matter, 2) a theoretical model of framework is used to explain the relevant issues, 3) literature is reviewed, and 4) resources for more information and learning activities are provided.

In reviewing these articles for publication, I was struck by the importance of this project, not only as it provides an excellent resource for the classroom, but also as it presents a composite of the current issues in the field. When completed, the two issues will be a useful tool for gaining insight about the very complex and important field of housing.

Susan Zavotka, Ph.D.
Assoc. Professor
Department of Consumer and Textiles Sciences
College of Human Ecology
The Ohio State University

265G Campbell Hall
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210
614/292-4572
zavotka.1@osu.edu