



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Course: SW 748: Issues in Global Social Practice: Re-Entry and Professional Practice

Term: Fall 2014

Date/Time: Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: SSWB 1804

Instructors: Lawrence Root (lroot@umich.edu) & Katie Lopez (kalopez@umich.edu)

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This two-credit class is for students who have completed a global social work experience. It is designed to address: issues related to re-entry and integration of their international/global experience; differences between social work/social services in the United States and those in other cultural/national contexts; and next steps for seeking careers in global social work.

Course Content

The course has three components:

- 1) analyzing how national context (economics, political environment, culture, traditions, etc.) impacts how social problems are identified, understood, and addressed; and
- 2) integrating global practice experiences into one's social work education and professional development; and
- 3) developing a professional portfolio that integrates and represents the student's experience, philosophy, and future plans.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the salient elements of their international social work experience and integrate it into their perspectives on professional social work practice
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the domain and role of social work in an international context, with a focus on the critical role played by cultural context and individual orientations
3. Provide an integrated perspective on their social work graduate experience through the development of an integrative learning portfolio
4. Assess arenas of professional practice and potential career paths that draw upon their international experience and perspectives

Relationship to the School's Four Curricular Themes

- Multiculturalism and diversity—Issues of multiculturalism and diversity will be fundamental to the cross-national perspectives that are the core of this course. Considering the ways in which privilege and oppression will be a lens through which we examine individual and group relations in other countries and how that can inform our understanding of our own as well as other national contexts.
- Social justice and social change—Social justice and social change will be considered in a multinational context, including examining international conventions concerning justice and human rights.
- Promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation—In addressing cross-national comparisons of social work, emphasis will be placed on the extent to which interventions are geared toward promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation
- Behavioral and social science—In the context of international social work, evidence from behavioral and social science will inform comparisons of different approaches.

Social Work Ethics and Values

Ethical issues are of central importance in thinking about international social work. Topics such as international adoption, informed consent (e.g., questions of clarity of communication when there are language/cultural differences; perception/ reality of *de facto* coercion), value/cultural/religious differences, and differential access to resources shall be addressed. The course also explicitly addresses the statement of ethical principals developed by the International Federation of Social Workers and International Association of Schools of Social Work.

Course Design

This two-credit course meets in the Fall term and is designed for students who are just returning from an international social work experience, either a field placement, special studies, or Peace Corps assignment. It also serves as a capstone course for students focusing on international perspectives on social work. The course seeks to facilitate the integration of the international experience with coursework and other field experiences. One product of the course will be an integrative learning portfolio, which each student will develop during the semester. This content is based on a process that has been developed in the School. Portfolio sessions are woven into the other course content. The principle text for the course is:

Lynne M. Healy (2008). *International Social Work: Professional Action in an Interdependent World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

There is a Ctools site (SW 748 001 F14) established for this course. Readings, lectures and other resources will be posted on this site.

There are three types of assignments for this class:

1. Class readings and participation--including submission of reflection logs for four of the sets of reading assignments. Each reflection log is to include reflections/reaction both to the class discussions and the reading assignments. The log should also include two discussion questions based on the readings.
2. Preparation and display of a poster representing your international social work experience.
3. Development of an integrative learning portfolio, including use of learning modules and in-class activities.

This seminar will be graded as follows: S = Satisfactory or U = Unsatisfactory based on the course assignments and class participation.

Outline of Topics

Session 1
Sept. 4 Introduction to the course and initial discussion of experiences abroad

Sessions 2-3
Sept. 11& 18 Domain of “international social work” and beginning of portfolio development

Readings:

Healy, Ch. 1: International Social Work: Why Is It Important and What Is It?
Ch. 2: Theories and Concepts Underpinning International Social Work: Globalization
Arthur, N. (2001). Using critical incidents to investigate cross-cultural transitions. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 25: 41-53.

Portfolio: Assigned module for the Sept. 18 session

Sessions 4-5
Sept. 25 & Oct. 2 Human rights, values, and ethics—as organizing principles

Readings:

Healy, Ch. 3: Theories and Concepts Underpinning International Social Work: Development and Human Rights
Ch. 9: Values and Ethics for International Professional Action
Appendix. A: Ethics in Social Work: Statement of Principles
Banks, S. (2008). Critical commentary: Social work ethics. *British Journal of Social Work*, 38: 1238-1249.
Annas, G.J. (2005). Human Rights and Health: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 50. Chapter 3 in Gruskin, S., Grodin, M.A., Annas, G.J., & Marks, S.P., *Perspectives on Health and Human Rights*. New York: Routledge.
Hague Conference on Private International Law. *Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (concluded 29 May 1993).
U.S. Department of State (Bureau of Consular Affairs). Understanding the Hague Convention. [adoption.state.gov/hague_convention/overview.php]

Portfolio: Assigned module for the Oct. 2 session

Sessions 6 & 7
Oct. 9 & 16

Global social work issues and organization, including poverty, child welfare, status of women, labor conditions/rights, aging, and disaster responses

Readings:

Healy, Ch. 4: Global Social Issues

Ch. 5: International Social Welfare Organizations and Their Functions

Be prepared for in-class discussion of ways in which the issues you experienced in your global experience are reflected in the content of Healy's Chapter 4.

Portfolio: Assigned module for the Oct. 16 session

Sessions 8 & 9
Oct. 23 & 30

Social work practice in other countries

Readings:

Healy, Ch. 6: The History of the Development of Social Work

Ch. 7: International Professional Action: A Selective History (skim)

Ch. 8: Social Work Around the World Today

Portfolio: Assigned module for the Oct. 23 session

Session 10
Nov. 6

Cross-national differences in values and social norms

Readings:

Unicef. (2013). *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. New York: United Nations. Pp. 2-13 and Section 6. What are the prevailing attitudes towards FGM/C? (pp. 52-73)—scan/read other parts of the report.

Montero, D. (2006). Nice's dilemma: Is doing the right thing wrong? *Christian Science Monitor*.

Session 11
Wed, Nov. 12
12:30-1:30pm

Global Social Work Poster Session—SSW Lower Level
Posters due to OGA on Nov. 10 by 12pm

Session 12
Nov. 20

Refining key learning experiences for the portfolio

Video:

TED- David Damberger: What Happens When NGOs an Admits Failure

www.ted.com/talks/david_damberger_what_happens_when_an_ngo_admits_failure

No Class November 27—Thanksgiving break

Session 13
Dec. 4

Portfolio showcase