Course: SW 748: Issues in Global Social Practice: Re-Entry and Professional Practice
Term: Fall 2016
Date/Time: Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Location: SSWB 1804
Instructors: Katie Lopez (kalopez@umich.edu) & Mary Ruffolo (mruffolo@umich.edu)
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description
This two-credit capstone seminar 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 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 two main components:

1) integrating global practice experiences into one’s social work education and professional development; and

2) 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 global social work experience and integrate them into their perspectives on professional social work practice
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the domain and role of social work in an global 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

Course Design
This two-credit seminar meets in the Fall term and who have incorporated a global social work experience into their MSW degree. Relevant experiences include international students completing their MSW in the U.S., global field placements, global special studies, or Peace Corps Service. Additionally, the course serves as a capstone seminar for students completing the Certificate in Global 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.
There is a Canvas site (SW 748 001 FA 2016) established for this course. Readings, assignment descriptions, and other resources will be posted on this site.

**Theme Relation to Multiculturalism & 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 counties and how that can inform our understanding of our own as well as other nationals contexts.

**Theme Relation to Social Justice**
Social justice and social change will be considered in a multinational context, including examining international conventions concerning justice and human rights.

**Theme Relation to Promotion, Prevention, Treatment & 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.

**Theme Relation to Behavioral and Social Science Research**
In the context of global social work, evidence from behavioral and social science will inform comparisons of different approaches.

**Relationship to Social Work Ethics and Values**
Ethical issues are of central importance in thinking about global social work. In particular, this seminar will touch on topics such as informed consent (e.g. questions of clarity of communication when there are language/cultural differences), value/cultural/religious differences, and differential access to resources shall be addressed. The course also explicitly addresses the Statement of Ethical Principles developed by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW).

**Class Attendance & Participation**
As a capstone seminar, it is important that you attend each class session. This class involves a wide range of experiential learning exercises, and therefore, class attendance and participation are critical to achieving the full impact of the course. You are expected to actively participate in class discussions, small group discussions, and various in-class exercises, some of which will require preparing written exercises before a particular session. If you are not able to attend a particular class session, please notify the instructors prior to the class session so that arrangements can be made for material that you missed. Missing more than two class sessions may lower your final grade since your participation as a co-learner is essential to meet the learning goals for this requirement.

**A Note on the Learning Environment**
The class is designed as a co-learning environment. Your contribution as a “teacher and a learner” in the class will enhance the learning for all class members. Quality social workers must be self-aware, self-reflective, and open to exploring our own histories and issues regarding any given concern or population. Be prepared to reflect on and explore your own family history, social systems, experiences, identity, cultural background and assumptions regarding all forms of diversity. There will be a variety of ways that students can do this through critical thinking, assignments and active participation in class discussions and activities. Being honest, sensitive, and respectful to each other in preparation for quality
social work practice is one of the learning environment goals. Please share opinions and feedback with others in discussions and exercises, and when you do so, please try to state them in a respectful and constructive manner. Also, prepare yourself to hear varying opinions and feedback non-defensively, and to use those data or challenge them constructively. Please practice tolerance, not expecting yourself or your classmates to be polished in discussions about issues that can be challenging and confusing. We can expect to blunder and make mistakes in the classroom so that we are better prepared when we are in the field; please honor this process.

Assignments
There are four main assignments for this seminar:

1. Global Social Work Experience Poster- Students will prepare and present a poster representing their global social work experience during the Global Social Work Poster Session September 28. Posters due for printing by September 26 by 12 pm.

2. Global Experience Presentation- Each student will give a 10 minute presentation on an aspect of their international experience that connects with the relevant regional section of the “Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development: Second Report. Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples.” Presentations will be given during Sessions 5-8.

3. Campus Event/Key Informant Interview- During the semester each student is expected to attend one globally focused campus event or lecture. Alternatively, students can choose to interview a key informant about a globally related topic. Students will then write up a 2-3 page summary of the event or interview and reflect on the associated learning. Summary/Reflection papers are due November 17.

4. ePortfolio- Throughout the term each student will develop an integrative ePortfolio using learning modules and in-class activities. This process will require students to prepare and bring in smaller assignments to some classes as listed. Between October 31 and November 16 students need to sign up for an individual 20 minute appointment with one of the course instructors to review their ePortfolio progress. Students will then present their ePortfolio during the last class. ePortfolio due and to be presented December 1.

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

Incompletes
Incompletes are given only when it can be demonstrated that it would be unfair to hold the student to the stated time limits of the course. The Student Guide, Vol. 1, Sec. 8.01 states that an I grade is used when illness or other compelling reasons prevent completion of work, and there is a definite plan and date for completion of course work approved by the instructor. The student must formally request an incomplete from the instructor prior to the final week of classes.

Accommodations
If you need an accommodation for a disability, please let us know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make us aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine
appropriate accommodations. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office at G664 Haven Hall, (734) 763-3000, (734) 615-4461 (TDD), (734) 619-6661 (VP) or Email ssdoffice@umich.edu.

If you have difficulties participating in discussion for linguistic, cultural or other reasons, let’s discuss them individually and explore ways in which you may become a more active participant in class.

**Religious Holidays**

Although the University of Michigan, as an institution, does not observe religious holidays, it has long been the University's policy that every reasonable effort should be made to help students avoid negative academic consequences when their religious obligations conflict with academic requirements. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent.

**Safety & Emergency Preparedness**

In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1 from any cell phone or campus phone.

All University of Michigan students, faculty and staff are required to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and protocols for both inside and outside of the classroom. In the event of possible building closure (i.e. severe weather conditions, public health notices, etc.) you may contact (734)764-SSWB(7793) for up-to-date School closure information.

Be Prepared. Familiarize yourself with the emergency card posted next to the phone in every classroom/meeting room. Review the information on the emergency evacuation sign (located nearest the door) and locate at least (2) emergency exits nearest the classroom.

If you are concerned about your ability to exit the building in the case of an emergency, contact the Office of Student Services and/or email ssw-ADAcompliance@umich.edu. Office of Student Services School of Social Work | Room 1748

734-936-0961

For more information view the annual Campus Safety Statement at [http://www.dpss.umich.edu/](http://www.dpss.umich.edu/).

Outline of Sessions

Session 1  
**Course Introduction**  
Sept. 8

*No Class Sept. 15*

Sessions 2  
**Global Social Work**  
Sept. 22

**Required Reading/Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**
Healy, Ch. 1: International Social Work: Why Is It Important and What Is It?

**Assignment:**
Poster PDF due Sept. 26 by 12 pm through email to ssw.oga@umich.edu

Session 3  
**Global Social Work Poster Session**  
Sept. 28  
SSW Lower Level  
12:30-1:30pm

Sessions 4  
**Portfolio Introduction**  
Sept 29

**Required Reading/Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**
Review the *Overview* module and complete the Inventory of Your Learning Experiences exercise using the provided handout. Bring a hard copy of your inventory to class and be prepared to share with a partner during class.

Sessions 5  
**Professional Philosophy Statement Development**  
Oct. 6

**Required Reading/Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**
Review the *Professional Philosophy* module. Write a draft philosophy statement and bring a hard copy to class. Next, complete *Feedback Exercise 1*, which requires you to create a Wordle. Email a copy of your Wordle to the instructors. Last, complete the *think* and *jot down* steps of *Feedback Exercise 2* before class. The *share, reflect*, and *feedback* steps will be completed in class with a partner

**Group 1 Student Presentations**

*No Class Oct. 13*

**Assignment:**
Polished Philosophy Statement due Oct. 13

*No Class Oct. 20*
Session 6
Oct. 27

**Key Learning Experience Development**

**Required Reading/Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**
Review the *Key Learning Experiences* module. Using a global key learning experience you plan to use in your final portfolio, complete the *Key Learning Experiences Exercise* worksheet. Come to class prepared to share your experience and exercise with a partner during class.

**Group 2 Student Presentations**

Session 7
Nov. 3

**Confronting Failure**
Readings TBA

**Group 3 Student Presentations**

Session 8
Nov. 10

**International Intentions**

**Required Reading/Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**
Illich, Ivan (1968). To Hell with Good Intentions. Speech to the Conference on InterAmerican Student Projects in Cuervavaca, Mexico, April 20, 1968.

**Group 4 Student Presentations**

Session 9
Nov. 17

**Portfolio Working Session**

**Required Reading/Tasks to Prepare for Class Session:**
Review the *Seelio* module and come to class with information entered in the *About* section and at least one Key Learning Experience added to the *Works* section. Come to class with questions about using the Seelio platform. **Bring a laptop to class as part of the session will be dedicated portfolio working time.**

**Assignment:**
Campus Event/Key Information Interview Assignment due Nov. 17
Be prepared for in-class discussion about your associated learning.

*No Class Nov. 24*  
Happy Thanksgiving!

Session 10
Dec. 1

**Portfolio Showcase**