Course: SW 648 Issues in Global Social Work Practice
Term: Winter 2018
Time: Mondays 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Dates: Jan 8, Jan 22, Feb 12, March 5 & March 19
Location: 2752 SSWB
Instructors: Katie Lopez (kalopez@umich.edu)
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description
This course is designed to help prepare social work students for professional practice during a global social work experience, as well as to help integrate that experience into the broader educational experience at the U-M SSW. It is for students who will be going abroad at the end of the winter term (i.e. students completing a global field placements, a global independent study, or Peace Corps service). Students will critically examine their identify, assumptions, and values and begin to develop a practice framework that is ethical, relevant, and effective in a global setting.

Course Content
The course will explore four main areas:

1) how national context (economics, political environment, culture, traditions, etc.) impacts how social problems are identified, understood, and addressed;

2) principles of global social work practice competencies and strategies for developing a framework and skills through self-examination;

3) reflection on a global practice experience and strategies for integrating it into other social work courses; and

4) ethics of global social work practice.

It is too much to expect that a one-credit course will be able to provide comprehensive global knowledge and practice skills to students. Thus the focus of this course will be on critically examining these themes so that students “know what they don’t know” and can begin to develop a framework and strategies for ethical and effective practice in a global setting.

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

1. demonstrate an understanding of the impact of their assumptions, values, positionalities (aspects of one’s position—such as gender/gender expression, age, wealth, and nationality—that impact perceptions, reactions, etc.), theories and practice models on social work practice in a global setting;

2. demonstrate awareness of the value of cultural humility in effective social work practice;

3. demonstrate awareness of practice principles and processes that build on local knowledge and experience;
4. demonstrate a critical understanding of the role cultural context plays in defining social issues and interventions;
5. articulate ethical issues in relation to global practice; and
6. explore strategies for integrating global practice experience in the larger social work curriculum.

Course Design
Class meeting time will generally be devoted to discussion and related activities. Presentations (by the instructor, students, and guest lecturers) and readings will provide the basis for the discussion.

There is a Canvas site (SW 648 001 WN18) established for this course. Readings, lectures and other resources will be posted on this site. There is no required textbook for the course.

Theme Relation to Multiculturalism & Diversity
Issues of multiculturalism and diversity will be fundamental to the core of this course. Privilege and oppression will be used as lenses through which we examine individual and group relations in other counties. Additionally, we will examine how privilege and oppression inform our understanding of various national contexts, including our own.

Theme Relation to Social Justice
Social justice and social change will be considered in a multinational context, including examining issues of 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 course will touch on topics such as informed consent (e.g. questions of clarity of communication when there are language/cultural differences) and value/cultural/religious difference. The course also examines 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
This course only meets five times so it is important that students attend each session. If, for some reason, you are not able to attend a particular class session please notify the instructors prior to the session so that arrangements can be made for missed material. Students who miss a class session may be required to complete a makeup assignment. Missing more than two class sessions may impact your final grade.

A Note on the Learning Environment
The class is designed as a co-learning environment. Your contribution as both 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, 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. Funding Statement - a hardcopy draft must be brought to the January 22nd class with the final version due January 24th at 5pm submitted via Canvas.

2. Country Report- conduct an investigation of the country where your global experience will be located. Report due March 5th at 5pm submitted via Canvas. During class March 5th students should be prepared to share what they learned while researching their country.

3. Book Review- Students will select a book from a list during the first class session. Students will then be responsible for reading the book before the last class when there will be a group discussion of the books. The written book review is due March 19th at 5pm submitted via Canvas

4. Professional Blog- keep a professional blog during your experience. Reflect on what you are experiencing, what you are feeling and what you are learning as you go through the process. Remember, this blog will be read by the instructors. All posts must be posted by September 7th at 5pm.

Grading
Students will receive a “Y” grade at the end of the winter term with final grades being assigned in the fall term. An initial “Y” grade is necessary as one of the course assignments is contributing to the class blog during the spring/summer. Ultimately 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

January 8  Topics
- Course overview and introduction
- Global social work and differences in “social work” as a profession
- Funding opportunities and writing your proposal

Preparation for class:

January 22  Topics
- Discussion/review of funding proposals
- Cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication
- Values, assumptions, positionality, and privilege

Preparation for Class:
- Kohls, L. Robert. “The values Americans live by” (manuscript)
- Schmidt, Sara. “Tips for funding graduate international internships” (manuscript)
- Before class complete the BuzzFeed quiz *How Privileged Are You?* http://www.buzzfeed.com/regajha/how-privileged-are-you#.jrRmVzAor

Assignment Due:
- Funding Statement - a hard copy draft must be brought to the January 22nd class with the final version due January 24th at 5pm submitted via Canvas
- Peace Corps Funding Critique- Due January 22nd at 5pm submitted via Canvas.

February 13  Topics
- Interventions- short-term versus long-term and implications
- In class discussion of the movie *Sounds of Mumbai*
- Program evaluation

Preparation for Class:
- Watch the movie *Sounds of Mumbai* prior to the class session.

March 5  Topics
- Stresses associated with global work
- Ethical considerations in global social work practice

Preparation for Class:
• Come to class ready to discuss what you learned from your country report assignment.

Assignment Due:
• Country Report- due **March 5th at 5pm** submitted via Canvas

March 19 Topics
• Group discussions by experience type
• Entering/Exiting a community
• Wrap up and next steps

Preparation for Class:
• Come to class ready for a small group discussion on the book selected for the book review assignment

Assignment Due:
• Book Review- due **March 19th at 5pm** submitted via Canvas