Fall Term 2018

SEED: Refugee Resettlement and Social Work Practice

Course Number: SW510-016
Credit Hours: 1
Schedule:
   Tuesday August 28 1-5 pm
   Wednesday August 29 8:30am-12pm
   Thursday August 30 8:30am-1pm
Location: 3629 SSWB

Faculty Information
Odessa Gonzalez Benson, PhD, MSW
odessagb@umich.edu, SSW Office: 3828

Course Description
This course will engage with issues and on-the-ground actions in response to anti-refugee, anti-immigrant sentiments and public/policy debates in the U.S. and globally in light of the refugee ban in the U.S. in 2018 targeting refugees from Muslim-majority nations, the Rohingya persecution and human rights crisis in Myanmar in 2017, and the arrival of Syrian refugees in Europe in the summer of 2015-16. Students will gain introductory background about the U.S. refugee policy and the global and historical context of forced displacement. Students will also gain foundational knowledge about organizations involved in U.S. resettlement, specifically (a) nationally-based, state-contracted organizations that implement refugee policy and (b) community-based, refugee-run organizations. Case studies and model communities will be discussed in class. Students will gain an understanding of challenges experienced by refugees, such as loss and mental health issues, and issues in and strategies for casework and clinical practice. The course will include a problem-based learning activity, designed for interactive community building among students, and to challenge students in applying knowledge and information gained from the course.

Course Objectives and Practice Competencies
At the end of the course, students will demonstrate a basic understanding of refugee resettlement practice and policy, with an emphasis on privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice context. At the end of the course, students will demonstrate knowledge of the key components of social work practice with refugees, and knowledge about US and global perspectives to forced migration.

To identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly. Students will respond to contexts that shape practice by providing leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of supports and strengthen solidarity with refugees and immigrants.
To strengthen connection and community at the School of Social Work. Students will work in small groups and create zines throughout the mini-course for opportunities to develop relationships with peers.
To explore PODS (privilege, oppression, diversity, & social justice). Students will explore PODS as embedded in issues surrounding refugee resettlement and immigration
To learn foundation-level social work skills. This mini-course will introduce students to key foundation concepts and skills, including those pertaining to refugee services and assistance; issues in refugee policy implementation; community engagement; critical thinking.
Agenda: Tuesday, August 28, 1-5 pm
Introductions & Engagement with the Bhutanese refugee community of Michigan

1-2 - Introductions and Overview
• Introductions: What we share in common and where we’ve been
• Overview of course objectives, key concepts, community engagement strategies.

2-5 - Engagement with members of the Bhutanese Community of Michigan, a refugee-run non-profit organization based in Grand Rapids
• Large Group: Sharing the story of Bhutanese refugees: in Bhutan, in the camps, in resettlement. Learning about policy implementation and resettlement processes, from the perspectives of resettled refugees.
• Three Small Groups with one issue each: a) Integration b) Education c) Wellness
  o Challenges: What are the challenges and issues pertaining to each issue?
  o Actors & Institutions: Who are the actors, stakeholders? Institutions, policies?
  o Interventions & Actions: Brainstorm possible interventions, actions, supports.
    And design a perfect system.
• Large Group: Report back

Homework:
1) WRITE-UP: 1-2 page Summary of your Small Group Discussion, to be provided to BCM.
2) FIND: Images for your ‘Zine, preferably but not necessarily related to your group topic (integration, education, wellness). Paste into 1 page and email to me by 9 PM.
   See Resources below for more info on Zines.
3) READ:
   (a) Gonzalez Benson 2016. Focus on Background sections, especially pages 521-524 on ‘Conceptualizing Devolution, Privatization, Managerialism, and Workfare’.
   (b) Darrow 2018. Focus on Findings section, especially Page 46-48 on ‘Introduction to Administrative Indentureship and Administrative Inclusion’.

Agenda: Wednesday, August 29, 8:30-12
US Perspectives; History & Context; Meaning; ‘Zine

830-10 - History, Context, Power: U.S. Perspectives
• US Refugee Policy and the Institutional Domain of US Refugee Resettlement

10-11 - Meaning: Who is a migrant? Small group discussion.

11-12 - Zine-making

Homework:
1) FIND: Image/s 1/8 of a page to add to your Zine, about Possibilities & refugees.
   That is, action, advocacy or solidarity work with refugees, preferably but not necessarily related to your group topic (integration, education, wellness).
   Paste into 1/8 page & email to me by 9 PM.
2) RESEARCH, GOOGLE, YOUTUBE: Your assigned ‘Case for Solidarity’.
   You will discuss in small groups and present to class, with video up to 5 minutes.
   You will give input, especially on one of your five concepts assigned to you (history, context, meaning, power, possibilities).
3) READ: Ostrander et al 2017.
Assignments
1. Group work: 1-2 page write-up of Small Group Discussion with refugee leaders – Tuesday
2. Individual work: 1-page Zine (as part of your group’s Zine) – Wednesday/ Thursday
3. Group work: Verbal Presentation on your Case of Solidarity – Thursday
Assignments are to be submitted in-person during class, at the latest by end of class time Aug 30th. Grades assigned: completed/satisfactory or not complete/unsatisfactory.
**Required Readings, Available on Canvas Course Site**


**Additional Resources: Zines**

https://zines.barnard.edu/howtomakeazine


**Additional Resources: Social Work with Refugees**


Advocacy Toolkit for Refugee Community Advocacy Month, August 1 to Sept 3, 2018

http://www.rcusa.org/advocate-now/

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/577d437bf5e231586a7055a9/t/5b56330570a6ad58609f0fcb/1532375825087/NEW+RCUSA+August+2018+Recess+Toolkit_FINAL+7.20.18.pdf

International Federation of Social Workers: on refugees: https://www.ifsw.org/refugees/
Relevant Policies
Learning Needs and Disabilities Students with specialized learning needs are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss the necessary arrangements. If you have a disability or condition that may interfere with your participation in this course, please submit the disability certificate prior to the Drop/Add date. This information will be kept strictly confidential. For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office at G664 Haven Hall, (734) 763-3000.

Attendance
The School of Social Work attendance policy can be found in the Student Guide. Students are expected to participate in all three days of classes.

Deadline Expectations, Grading
Project assignments are due on the date listed in the syllabus. Exceptions will need prior permission of the instructor. Students will be graded on a scale of “Satisfactory” (S) or “Unsatisfactory” (U).

Incompletes
Incompletes are not granted unless it can be demonstrated that it would be unfair to hold the student to the normal expectations of the course. The student must formally request an incomplete with the instructor prior to the last class. Please review the Student Guide section on Ethical Conduct in the University Environment. This section addresses plagiarism, harassment and discrimination policies.

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)764-7793 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/.
Register for UM Emergency Alerts at http://www.dpss.umich.edu/emergency-management/alert/.