PURPOSE

This seminar is designed for students interested in international social work. It is designed to prepare students for international social welfare practice abroad and/or for transnational work in the United States with immigrants, foreign students, international adoption, etc. This seminar is also relevant for international social work students who wish to apply social work principles to practice in their own countries.

OBJECTIVES

This course will assist the student to:

1. Apply theoretical frameworks such as social development, globalization from below, and human rights to international social work practice;
2. Become familiar with the international social work profession and code of ethics;
3. Identify the structure of the United Nations and its international Conventions;
4. Acquire introductory knowledge of role of non-governmental organizations;
5. Gain in-depth knowledge of social issues in a specific country/region of the world;
6. Prepare for overseas/cross-cultural social work practice.

REQUIRED READINGS

Available at the CWRU bookstore and on reserve at the Harris Library:


COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Lectures, guest speakers, videotapes, discussions, and in-class exercises will be utilized to provide an understanding of context of international social work practice. The seminar format requires critical thinking and analytical skills. The requirements of the course are:

* completion of assigned readings, as scheduled;
* regular attendance and active participation;
* timely completion of course assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS

Thoughtful selection of a particular country/region of the world and a substantive area for a practice focus will help students prepare for overseas or transcultural social work. To successfully complete the assignments for this course, students should:

1) Select a country/region of the world and its culture as a focus for their assignments.

2) Select a substantive area of focus, i.e., international adoption, management of nonprofit organizations, refugee resettlement, child welfare, women's health, etc.¹

There are three assignments. Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

1. Book review 20% of grade
2. Applied Theoretical Framework 30% pf grade
3. Resource Manual 40% of grade
4. Class Participation 10% of grade

1. **Book Review.** Choose one of the following books related to the topic of international social work in a substantive area of your interest. *If you wish to review a book that is not on the list, check with the instructor for approval.*

**Book Review**

The primary purpose of book reviews in a professional journal is to provide readers with a careful and literate evaluation of the content, quality, value, and usefulness of particular books. A critical and thoughtful appraisal of books, combined with a pointed summary of their content and primary arguments, is an important guide for readers. In addition, a lively and well-written critique enhances the interest of the reader in the review itself.

Generally, although reviewers are free to compose reviews in any manner they wish, a description of the purpose and content at the outset is helpful to the reader. Following that is a critical assessment of how well the book achieves its slated purposes and how well it reaches its intended audience is appropriate. Most importantly, your evaluation of how useful the book is to practitioners (novices and experienced ones), students, educators, researchers, policy analysts and the like is the crux of a good review.

I have enclosed information on the mechanics of preparing book reviews for *Social Work.* The maximum length of the review is 500 words, or approximately 2-3 pages, including title and publisher information. The review should be typewritten, double-spaced, with 1" margins. (Source: NASW Letter to Prospective Book Reviewers, 1996)

**Suggested books include:**


2. **Applied Theoretical Framework.** This 8-10 page paper is designed to prepare students for cross-cultural practice within a specific country/region and its culture. Select one of the following theoretical frameworks and apply the framework to the country/region and/or substantive area which you have selected. Use APA reference format and include bibliography. Choose one of the following theoretical frameworks:

**Multicultural Understanding**


**Social Development**


**Human Rights**


3. **International Resource Manual.** This assignment is designed to give students an up-to-date understanding of their country/region and practically help them plan for overseas/cross-cultural
social work. The manual should include the following sections:

1) brief history of the country/culture;
2) recent changes in its political, socio-economic, and/or governmental structure;
3) status and role of indigenous nongovernmental organizations;
4) a summary of the state of social work education and the issues facing it;
5) relevant information related to the substantive area of focus (women’s issues, international adoption, child welfare, non-governmental organizations, etc.);
6) references and suggested readings;
7) key international organizations working in the country/region.²

COURSE OUTLINE

Class 1. Course Introduction: Opportunities in International Social Work

Introductions
Review of syllabus
Identification of country/region and cultures

READING:


Class 2. International Social Work in a Global Economy

READING:


Chapter 1: The world of international social work (pp. 1-11)
Chapter 2: The challenge of international social work (pp. 13-27)


² Use this section to explore possibilities for overseas field placements, internships, or potential employment. Include a summary sheet of relevant organizations (address, fax, E-mail, phone, contact person, etc.). An effective way of finding these organizations is through the Internet and the World Wide Web.


Class 3. Social Work Practice: International Perspectives

READING:

Hokenstad et al. (1992).
Chapter 12: Social work in the United States: History, context, and issues (pp. 163-179).
Chapter 13: Social work today and tomorrow: An international perspective (pp. 181-193).

Read the chapter(s) relevant to social work in the country/region that you have selected: Latin America (Chapter 3); Europe (Chapters 4 & 10); Eastern Europe (Chapter 4); India (Chapter 6); Asia (Chapter 7 & 8); Africa (Chapter 9 & 11).

Read 2 additional articles on social work in your country/region (See attached bibliography for suggestions). Choose one “historical” source and one recent article. Come to class prepared to discuss social work in your country/region.

Class 4. The United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations

READING:

Chapter 1: Brief history of international social welfare (pp. 1-2).
Chapter 2: Structure of social welfare operations (pp. 29-61)


Class 5. Human Rights and Social Work: The U.N. Conventions


Class 6. The Rise of the Non-Profit Sector: Global Perspectives

READING:


Class 7. The Social Development Perspective

READING:


Class 8. Multicultural Understanding and Social Work Practice

READING:


Chapter 1: A model of multicultural understanding (pp. 1-14).

Read the chapter most appropriate to your country/region of the world, i.e., Africa, Japan, China, Vietnam, Korea, Mexico, Puerto Rico. If your country/region does not fall into these cultural groupings, read another relevant article. Come to class prepared to discuss these cultural issues.

Class 9. Ethics and Professional Consultation

READING:


Chapter 2: Values and professional ethics (pp. 18-39).
Chapter 3: Guidelines for ethical decision making (pp. 40-65).

Class 10. Overseas Study and Expatriate Readjustment

READING:


Class 11. International Child Welfare

READING:


**Class 12. Women’s Issues**


**Class 13. Immigration and Ethnic Conflict Resolution**

**READING:**


**Class 14. Student Presentations & Class Discussion**

**Class 15. Student Presentations & Class Discussion**
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

ADOPTION


CHILD WELFARE


GLOBALIZATION AND WORLD WIDE WEB


HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL CHANGE


IMMIGRATION


INDIGENOUS APPROACHES


**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**


**OVERSEAS FIELD PLACEMENTS**


**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**


**SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**


urope; Asian and Pacific Region; Africa).


for Social Work, 13(2), 76-83. (79 schools in 65 countries)


**WORK AND FAMILY**


**COUNTRY-SPECIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**AFRICA**


Harris, F. E.  (1994).  The hope of liberation: South Africa beyond Apartheid.  *Journal of*


**ASIA**


**CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES**


**EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE & STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION**


EUROPE


INDIA


INDOCHINA


LATIN AMERICA


Friedman, R. M. (1973). Blindness and services to the blind in Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, and


PACIFIC RIM


SOCIAL WELFARE JOURNALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

Selecciones de Servicio Social (Social Service Selections). Spanish. Three issues per year.
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRIA

BELGIUM
Le Service Social (Social Service). French.
Service Social dans le Monde (Social Service in the World). French. Quarterly.

BRAZIL

CANADA
Canadian Welfare. English. 10 issues per year. Canadian Council for Social Development.
Digest Social (Social Digest). French. 10 issues per year.
Service Social Laval. (Laval Social Service). French. Bi-annual.
The Social Worker/Le Travailleur Social. English/French. Five issues per year. Canadian Association of Social Workers.

CHILE
Accion Social (Social Action). Spanish.

COLUMBIA

DENMARK
Socialrådgiveren (The Social Worker). Danish.
Social Tidsskrift (The Social Journal). Danish.

FRANCE
Chronique Sociale de France (Social Chronicle of France). French.
Informations Sociales (Social Information). French. 10 issues per year.
Techniques d'actions sociales (Social Welfare Techniques). French. Three issues per year.

GERMANY
Der Sozialarbeiter (The Social Worker). Bi-monthly. German.

GREECE

HONG KONG

INDIA
Development and Welfare. Bi-monthly index of books, reports, and articles.
Kurukshetra (Community Development Journal). Fortnightly.
Rural India. Monthly.
Samaj-Sava (Social Welfare). Bi-monthly.
IRAN

ITALY
Centro Sociale (Social Centre). Italian. Bi-monthly publication of the Centre for Professional Education for Social Workers.
Esperienze Sociali (Social Experiences). Italian.

JAMAICA
Caribbean Quarterly. Quarterly. University of the West Indies.

MEXICO

NETHERLANDS
Maandblad Geestelijke Volksgezondheid (Journal for Mental Health). Dutch.
Maatschappelijk Welzijn (Social Welfare). Dutch.

NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand Social Worker. New Zealand Association of Social Workers.

NORWAY
Sosionomen (The Social Worker). Norwegian. 22 issues per year. Norwegian Association of Social Workers.
PHILIPPINES

POLAND

PUERTO RICO
Humanidad (Humanity). Spanish.

SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN

SWEDEN
Socionomen (The Socionomist). Swedish.

SWITZERLAND
Sozialarbeit/Travail social (Social Work). German/French.

UNITED KINGDOM
ESU Quarterly. Quarterly. Family Service Units.
Focus. Monthly.