



KIIS Prague, Summer 2020

SWRK 490 Topics: International Social Work Practice – Similarities and Differences

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: Students will be exposed to international social work including practice, ethics, and current events. Increasing personal awareness, cultural competence, and understanding of how traditions, history, and current events are framing people's experiences through interactions and understanding US social work similarities and differences with social work in the Czech Republic.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS creates and offers high-quality education abroad programs for students from diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help transform students into global citizens who have personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating in KIIS Study Abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Articulate the relationship between ideas, experiences, and place;
- 2) Develop tools to engage with diverse people in the local cultures; and,
- 3) Explore other peoples' values and clarify their own.

In the equivalent of one, single-spaced typed page, reflect on:

How has this experience made you think – or act – differently about the world around you? Please consider the 3 SLOs discussed. Please don't consider course content in your response; instead, think beyond it, and be as specific as possible.

3. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Social Work Ethics

Social welfare and economic policies that are affecting social service delivery

Cultural differences between the United States and the Czech Republic

Availability of services

Practice methods

The role of, and professional expectations of a social worker in the United States and internationally

4. Required Readings and Materials:

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Chytil, Oldrich (1998). Social work in the Czech Republic. *Social Work in Europe*. 5(3). p. 48-54. <http://docs.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/fulltext/0060829.pdf>

B. REFERENCE TEXTS

National Association of Social Workers (2008). *NASW code of ethics*. Retrieved from <http://www.naswdc.org/pubs/code/>

Association of Social Workers in the Czech Republic. Retrieved from <https://www.ifsw.org/member-organisation/czech-republic/>

5. Graded Assignments:

Participation – 10%

Group Discussion (2@15%) – 30 %

Reflection Paper (3@15%) – 45%

Final Video - of overall experience including the culture, visits, and comparison of United States social work and that of the Czech Republic - 15%

6. Course Objectives, Activities, and Measures (CSWE Practice Behaviors):

Competencies	Course Content	Dimensions	Measures
1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior 1.1 make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context; 1.2 use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations; 1.3 demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication; 1.5 use supervision and consultation to guide	Community observation and interaction. Discussion Boards, Reflection papers, Final project.	Knowledge, Skills, Values, Cognitive/Affective Reactions	Reading comprehension, Class discussion, Community observation, Ethics observations and discussions, final project, grades based on student observations/feedback, rubrics, and grading scale relative to assignment

<p>professional judgment and behavior.</p>			
<p>2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice 2.1 apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels; 2.2 present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and 2.3 apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.</p>	<p>Community observation and interaction. Discussion Boards, Reflection papers, Final project. Meeting with local social service personnel. Engaging with social workers in practice.</p>	<p>Knowledge, Skills, Values, Cognitive/Affective Reactions</p>	<p>Reading comprehension, Class discussion, Community observation, Ethics observations and discussions, final project, grades based on student observations/feedback, rubrics, and grading scale relative to assignment</p>
<p>3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice 3.1 apply understanding of social economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and systems levels 3.2 engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.</p>	<p>Community observation and interaction. Discussion Boards, Reflection papers, final project. Reading and learning about local events. Learning about the issues facing the community and how social workers are advocating for their community.</p>	<p>Knowledge, Skills, Values, Cognitive/Affective Reactions</p>	<p>Reading comprehension, Class discussion, Community observation, Ethics observations and discussions, final project, grades based on student observations/feedback, rubrics, and grading scale relative to assignment</p>
<p>5: Engage in Policy Practice 5.1 identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services 5.2 assess how social welfare policies impact the delivery of and access to social services 5.3 apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice</p>	<p>Community observation and interaction. Discussion Boards, Reflection papers, final project. Learning about current policy practice and how it is impacting the delivery and access of care through observation, reading, and talking with local social workers.</p>	<p>Knowledge, Skills, Values, Cognitive/Affective Reactions</p>	

<p>6: Engage with individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities 6.1 apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and 6.2 use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.</p>	<p>Class participation. Class meetings with individuals, groups, organizations, and communities. Actively talking with people. Utilizing self-awareness and empathy to become aware of the similarities and differences between their home community and their course community.</p>	<p>Knowledge, Skills, Values, Cognitive/Affective Reactions</p>	<p>Reading comprehension, Class discussion, Community observation, Ethics observations and discussions, final project, grades based on student observations/feedback, rubrics, and grading scale relative to assignment</p>
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7. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student’s final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

8. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program. If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus’ disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will contact your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter. In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should

your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

9. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / andrea.anderson@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/titleixbrochure.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.