



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Tanzania Program, Summer 2021

SWRK 490/695: Topics: Cultural Influences in Spirituality and Healing Approaches

Instructor: Dr. Sandra H. Starks

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

The role of spirituality and non-traditional healing will be explored. Diversity in spiritual and religious practices for healing and sustenance will be examined using several perspectives that include systems, expressive modalities, strengths, and feminist theories. Students will engage in readings, discussions and opportunities to further explore implications for the use of non-traditional healing methods while emerging themselves into the culture of East Africa. Guest speakers from Tanzania will be invited to present to students as well as opportunities for students to visit various agencies/institutions that provide healing and spiritual activities.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge

1. Articulate religious and spiritual concepts from a global perspective.
2. Describe the aspects of spirituality present within an international environment.

Values

3. Articulate the value and ethical issues confronting health/human service workers in international environments.
4. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and evaluate self and agency compliance with Codes of Ethics and the NASW Standards for Culturally Competent Practice with respect to diversity and difference.

Skills

5. Effectively apply critical thinking skills related to cultural and human diversity.
6. Demonstrate the ability to analyze the efficacy of spiritual practices within the cultural context of the East African environment.
7. Exhibit effective engagement and communication skills during collaborative meetings with clients, families, and other professionals.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

The major topics covered in this course include the following:

- Mental and physical health practices from a cultural perspective
- Spirituality as a form of support and non-traditional healing
- Alternative models and theories for social support and healing

5. Required Readings:

Hays, P. A. (2013). *Connecting Across Cultures: The Helper's Toolkit*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications.

Canda, E. R. (2010). *Spiritual diversity in social work practice: The heart of helping*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Text:

Derezotes, D. S. (2006). *Spiritually oriented social work practice*. Boston: Pearson Education.

6. Graded Assignments:

(1): Spiritual Development Reflection Paper (70 pts.)

Students will examine their personal spiritual development by writing a reflection paper. Due to the personal nature of this assignment, students will be free to decide on the length of their paper. Although the unspecified page length may make some students uncomfortable, students should focus on free expression of specific thoughts, ideas, and images that contributed to their spiritual

development. Citations should be included when appropriate to do so. The italicized words are **required** subheadings that must be inserted into the body of the paper.

(2) Spiritual Assessment Inventory (100pts)

You are to conduct a mock interview with an adult during which you will identify the basic components of a spiritual assessment inventory and obtain this information. This interview should last approximately 20-30 minutes and your write up of it should be 3-4 pages. Be sure to include relevant demographics as you introduce your interview client. This can be completed in outline or narrative format and should indicate graduate level work in terms of grammar, construction, etc. (A sample of the required information is Located in the content section of BlackBoard.....please adapt it to fit your needs as a service provider).

(3) House of Worship Ethnography (100 pts)

Details to be provided during first class meeting.

(4) Reflection Sessions and Discussion (4 @ 10 pts each)

Details to be provided during first class meeting.

Theoretical Analysis Paper: _____ (695 only)(100 pts)

In this assignment, you will be using multiple perspectives to analyze a social issue in Tanzania of your choice. You may use relationships, social events, or occurrences linked to the particular social issue. All papers should include analyses from a spiritual perspective, a resistance perspective, and a theoretical perspective of your choice.

Possible topics: Children/youth, women, economy, spirituality, families, race/sex/class/gender, LGBTQ, poverty, HIV/AIDS, etc.

Possible theories: systems, social identity, conflict, strengths, resilience, relational consciousness, and feminist theories, etc.

GRADING SCALE:

90-100% A
80-89% B
70-79% C
60-69% F

Points

Black Boards (BB) 4@10 = 40
Spiritual Dev Reflection Paper =100
Spiritual Assessment =100
House of Worship Ethnography =100

TOTAL POINTS 340

Theoretical Analysis

100 Pts (for 695 only)

8. 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.

9. 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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, 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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, 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 notify 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.

10. 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 Assistant Director Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or 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/brochure2019update.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.