



KIIS Tanzania Program, Summer 2023

SWRK 490 Topics: Human Diversity and Social Justice

Professor: Dr. Ann-Marie Buchanan

Email: ann-marie.buchanan@lmunet.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: The role of human diversity in social work practice focus on discrimination, economic deprivation, oppression, differences and similarities in experiences, needs, and beliefs of people distinguished by ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, age, class, religion/spiritual beliefs, family form, socioeconomic or sociolegal status, physical/mental challenges, region, or urban/rural locality. The students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the differences between the U.S. and Tanzania.

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: This course is designed to introduce social work content of the impact of diversity, examining how social and economic injustice affects people of diverse backgrounds (global, national, regional, urban, rural). It challenges students to examine the role of human behavior and personal identity

as related to cultural identity and further examines factors that impact populations at risk. COVID-19 has opened our eyes even more to the differing practices in healthcare around the world. Together, the students and instructor, will discuss and learn about issues surrounding how COVID-19 was managed and its continued maintenance in the U.S. and Tanzania.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course: Cultural competence; differences/similarities; between the U.S. and Tanzania regarding culture; HIV/AIDS in same sex and/or transgender communities in Tanzania; forming coalitions.

5. Required Readings and Materials: Copies of the reading material will be supplied by the instructor on the first day of class.

6. Graded Assignments: Orphanage #1 (25 points) – Utilizing page 288 of the class text, write a 1-2 page response to the following:

Among the staff, describe how cultural competence was demonstrated in this agency.

Orphanage #2 (25 points) – write a 1-2 page response to the following:

What was your first impression of the children at this agency? Were there any noticeable differences to what you may have seen in the U.S. or expectations because it was an orphanage?

Orphanage #3 (25 points) – write a 1 page response to the following:

Based on your observation, how would you improve/enhance this facility?

Mid-Term (100 points) – write a 3 page paper on the following:

Utilizing the class text (pages 127-134), describe how the following risks affect the Tanzanian communities: Social exclusion, neighborhoods, employment and unemployment, and substance abuse.

HIV/AIDS (25 points) – write a 1-2 page response on the following:

Using research on a Tanzanian community, explain how, if at all, transgender and same-sex behavior has affected this community.

Final Paper (100 points) – each question is worth up to 25 points. Based on the topic on pages 286-288 (Forming Coalitions within different Ethnocultural Communities), respond to the following questions:

- 1) What type of social problems did you observe during this trip?
- 2) What type of health problems did you observe while visiting orphanages, clinics, beaches, etc.?
- 3) Identify and explain three (3) different cultural norms observed and/or in which you participated.
- 4) Compare and contrast one (1) U.S. custom with one Tanzanian custom.

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 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.

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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@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/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.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.