SOCW 4360:

TOPICS IN SOCIAL WORK: International Community Engagement

(Alternative Spring Break)

Spring Break 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor: Kristin Mycke, LCSW

Office: CAS 133A

Office Phone: 903-565-6579

Email Address: kmycke@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: Mon: 12-2 PM; Thurs: 10-12 PM (Other appointment times available by appointment or via video conferencing)

Course Information

Credit Hours: 3 Credit Hours

Course Format: Hybrid (Spring Break Travel and additional face-to-face preparation meetings before)

Time and place of Class Meetings: TBD

Description of Course Content:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisite: None

Course Overview: This class utilizes a service-learning experience in an international setting to introduce students to international social work practice and a range of global social issues that shape human welfare and social development. This course requires acceptance into the Alternative Spring Break program along with international travel during UTT's scheduled spring break. The course content will reflect the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) requirements for accreditation.

Course Overview: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to international social welfare in less-developed countries (LDCs). Students are members of a broader society dependent on their meaningful contributions for its success. In an increasingly global and more complex world, we require creative solutions. This course will provide an integrated, coherent learning experience to prepare students for responsible inquiry and action. Students will also engage in service-learning opportunities where they will be working as a team to serve various community agencies. Projects will be a mixture of labor intensive and interpersonal engagement with various populations including children, older adults, and community development programs.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Below are the Nine CSWE Core Competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education. Each of the competencies is included as an objective to understand and be met as appropriate for each course learning objective.

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
Competency 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
Competency 3: Engage in Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in practice
Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

The Nine CSWE Core Competencies are the basis for the Learning Outcomes that follow

Student Learning Outcomes for SOCW 4360:

1. Upon completion of the course, the student will demonstrate Practice within the context of social work values and ethics as measured through On-site observation and experiential learning in a cross-cultural context.
2. Demonstrate respect, knowledge, and skills related to diverse, disadvantaged, and/or oppressed populations as measured through Substantive training and On-site observation
3. Demonstrate leadership in curriculum development and program planning for agency activities as measured through program development and submission.
4. Delivery of relevant reading and support materials as measured through coordination of group planning and onsite activities.
5. Utilize non-judgmental and culturally sensitive language to facilitate engagement as measured through On-site observation and self-evaluations.
6. Demonstrate sufficient self-awareness to reduce the influence of personal biases in interaction with prevention/intervention recipients as measured through On-site observation and reflective paper.
7. Incorporate feedback into prevention/intervention techniques as measured through On-site observation and reflective paper

Required Textbook and readings:

No textbook required. Class readings will be provided by professor each week.

Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations:

Grades will be assigned on a letter grade basis for participation in the pre-travel requirements, writing assignments, and Programming provided to partner agencies while traveling abroad. The following assignments are required:

1. Substantive Training: Participation in pre-travel orientation/training sessions and one post-travel integration session.
2. Participation in group and individual activities with the agency's client population
3. Weekly pre-trip preparation assignments (5 total)
4. **Completion of a 4–5-page reflective paper (DUE: by 4/5 at 11:59 p.m.)**

Grading Information and Letter Grade Assignment

Pre-travel orientation and preparation: (attendance and participation)   250 Points or 25%
Weekly assignments (5x 50 points)   250 Points or 25%
Agency programming and service work   250 Points or 25%
Reflection Paper (post trip):   250 Points or 25%

Total Points Available for Course=1000
Letter Grade
1000-900 Points =   A (100%-90%)
899 - 800 Points =   B (89%- 80%)
799 - 700 Points =   C (79%-70%)
699 - 600 Points =   D (69%-60%)
599 or less =   F (59% or less)

All written assignments must be grammatically correct using APA style. Assignments with many grammatical errors, misspellings, and/or evidence of plagiarism will not receive a satisfactory grade. All written assignments will be due on the date listed on the course schedule. Ten points will be deducted for late assignments. **No assignment will be accepted after five days late.**

A grade of incomplete will not be given for this class.

Make-Up Exams:
Late assignments (including exams) are strongly discouraged. There will be 10 points (total) deducted for each late assignment and exam. No assignment or exam will be accepted after 5 days following the due date. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her work is completed on time and submitted correctly.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:
Beyond the time required to travel over Spring Break, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 8 hours pre-trip instruction hours (4 class sessions) preparing for the

trip and developing programming for the partner agency presentations while in Costa Rica. 2 additional hours (1 class session) will be spent meeting post-trip to debrief and reflect.

Attendance:
Engaged and timely participation in all pre and post trip meetings constitutes "attendance" for purposes of this course. Meeting times will be discussed and zoom options will be offered on an as needed basis only.

The Census Date for the semester is   This is the last day students may withdraw from the course without penalty.

Reflection Paper

Provide a 4–5-page reflection in the form of a structured journal entry (i.e. with subheadings) addressing:

Topic 1:
How your experiences in Costa Rica matched your expectations.
Were you reasonably prepared for the cultural context?
Were you reasonably prepared for the services you were asked to provide?
What, if any, aspects of the experience surprised you?

Topic 2:
What you learned about Costa Rican culture as related to social service needs and responses?
What, if anything, did you observe about the acceptance or stigmatization of client populations in Costa Rica? Thinking of the discussions at our culminating community symposium, what did you learn about the readiness of Grenadians to respond to local needs, and the obstacles they face in doing so?

Topic 3:
How, if at all, has this experience influenced your thinking about social work and your future career?
Will you do or see anything differently based on this experience?
Would you recommend it to others?
What would have made it a better experience for you?

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner through UT Tyler email and announcement(s) in Canvas. Institutional Information

Session	Topic	Readings/Assignments
1	Orientation, Trip Overview	
2	Costa Rica cultural competence, Political, economic, education, social welfare overview	
3	Programming for child-based services	
4	Programming for older adults	
5	Travel Day, in-country orientation, last minute preparation	
6	Programming Day 1 (Engage service agency and population). Present topic to children-based agency including self-esteem building, healthy relationships, ESL, Educational developmental needs. Evening debrief.	
7	Programming Day 2 and evening debrief	
8	Free day	
9	Programming Day3: Present topic to older population including nutrition, healthy mind exercises, remanence therapy. Evening debrief	
10	Programming Day 4: Continue older adult programming and evening debrief	
11	Free Day	
12	Travel Day	
13	Post-Trip debrief and reflection	

UT Tyler Policy on Artificial Intelligence Use

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or

copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, SOCW 4360, AI is not permitted. The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must create collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

Institutional Information

UT Tyler Honor Code
Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information

pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waiver through Financial Aid State-Mandated
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Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler and fill out the New Student application.

The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator.   For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor)

must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or

financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students
- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.72