



**COURSE TITLE/SECTION:** SOCW 7397/8397 International Social Work: A comparative approach

**TIME:** May 2011

**FACULTY:** Ira Colby, DSW, LCSW      **OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment  
Dean and Professor of Social Work

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**I. Course**

**A. Catalog Description**

A comparative study of policies, practices and research between the U.S. and Turkey through study abroad.

**B. Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to critically analyze the policy formulation, practice implementation of the social welfare systems and social work research in the US and a country (or countries) outside of the United States. This is an elective course that includes lectures, seminars, and site visits through study abroad.

**II. Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare the service delivery systems of the countries, including mandatory and optional services in social welfare and social services (in governmental sector and non-governmental agencies).
2. Critically analyze the implementation of social welfare policies, practices and research in Turkey and the U.S.
3. Identify and delineate international perspectives to improve ways of working with disadvantaged populations from diverse cultural backgrounds in the U.S. and Turkey.

**III. Course Content**

Students will use comparative approaches to analyze the social welfare policies, practices, research and the service delivery systems in the U.S. and Turkey. Content areas include: international and comparative frameworks in policy and practice analyses, social welfare and related practices in the countries, governmental and not-for-profit sectors for the implementation of the policies, cross-cultural learning exchanges with social work students and social workers in Turkey.

#### IV. Course Structure

This course will be taught using a combination of instructional methods including international travel, lectures, group discussions, and papers. The course will be divided into three segments: (1) overview of Turkey and social considerations; (2) Travel to Turkey; (3) Post travel discussions considering alternative welfare programs.

#### V. Readings

**Begin reading on a daily basis the following two newspapers.**

Today's Zaman: <http://www.todayszaman.com/mainAction.action>

Turkish Daily News: <http://www.turkeydailynews.com/>

#### VI. Course Requirements

##### A) Log (50 pts of grade)

Students will keep a daily log of the trip. Each entry includes observations, reactions and insights.

##### B) Paper (50 pts of grade)

The final paper compares a social policy in a specific area across the United States and the Turkey. The paper should be organized around a “puzzle” (why does the Turkey and the US with similar problems address them in different ways?) and should advance a coherent argument that explains the puzzle with reference to the theoretical literature covered in the course.

Students will then be required to turn in the paper on June 16, 2006.

***Please note that the papers will only be accepted as email attachments and no late papers will be accepted.*** All papers will be written according to APA style; visit the following APA web site for specific guidance - <http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html>. In addition, you are expected to include (that is, reference the news) current event information from the newspaper to support your discussion.

The World Wide Web is now a major source of information, but “Buyer Beware” should be your guide. Visit the following web sites for guidance regarding the web and its information.

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/critical/discipline.htm>

<http://library.usm.maine.edu/research/researchguides/webevaluating.html>

#### VII. Evaluation and Grading

\*Note: no extra credit assignments

Log	Max. 50 pts.
Paper	Max. 50 pts.
TOTAL	Max. 100 pts.

### Criteria for Letter Grade

95 - 100 = A	77 - 79 = C+
90 - 94 = A-	74 - 76 = C
87 - 89 = B+	70 - 72 = C-
84 - 86 = B	67 - 69 = D
80 - 83 = B-	66 or less = F

### VIII. Americans With Disabilities Act

Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance

### IX. Course Outline

Date	Topics	Readings
Spring 2010	Review Travel Requirements	handouts
April 12	Course Overview	TBA
April 20	Turkey – Geographical Overview	TBA
May 4	Gulen – Philosophy and Influences	TBA
May 11	Final Trip Preparations	TBA
May 14-May 23	Travel to Turkey	
May 26	1) Debrief Travel 2) Lessons Learned	
June 8	Paper Due	

### Course Participants

Jamie Davis	Abdul Narejo
Randryia Houston	Laurie Wagner
Greta Langley	Kathy Kidd
Ana Luisa Laws Herмосilla	Ryan Blair Johnson
Sarah Goldman	