



SWK 492/592: Social Work in Costa Rica

A Study Abroad Experience

COURSE SYLLABUS: May Mini 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Rebecca Judd LMSW-IPR, PhD
Office Location: Henderson 307
Office Hours: TBD
Office Phone: n/a
Office Fax: n/a
University Email Address: Rebecca.Judd@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required- None
Software Required
Optional Texts and/or Materials

Course Description

This course explores the evolution and current development of social work practice in Costa Rica through building knowledge links between political processes, economic constraints and the actual implementation of public policies. Focusing on how modern and evolving bureaucracies along with cultural and institutional frameworks of a given political system dictate the ways in which governments work and interact with the public/private sector.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

MSW students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between social policy and social and economic justice
- Apply strength and empowerment strategies with diverse populations
- Articulate a self-awareness of bias and prejudices held towards individuals from diverse cultures

BSW students will be able to:

- Describe differences in social policy between the United States and Costa Rica
- Use self-reflection to identify and manage values for guiding practice
- Engage individuals from diverse cultures with dignity and respect

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

In this class you will utilize the Learning Management Systems (LMS) D2L for instructional and learning opportunities, submitting your assignments, participating in online synchronous and asynchronous discussions, accessing resources, and completing quizzes/tests. Additionally, knowledge and skills in using Microsoft Word PowerPoint and Outlook Email, if you have any issues with using the various systems or software, it is your responsibility to contact support services and to notify the instructor of the problem.

Instructional Methods

This course will be delivered via synchronous and asynchronous sessions via D2L and will consist of live class sessions, pre-recorded lectures experiential learning and practical application of the content areas while in country

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

As a student in this course, you are responsible to engage in active learning and reaching out to the instructor if there are problems or challenges that is interfering in optimal learning. Communication is key when engaged in a fully online, virtual environment.

Expectations for success include:

1. Always demonstrate professional behavior, including demonstrating respect for instructor and peers; being open to feedback and guidance throughout this class and in the program.
2. Adhered to the School of Social Work and University student code of conduct, along with NASW Code of Ethics.
3. Begin reading the assigned text and supplemental readings as soon as possible, with a focus on completing all readings prior to engagement with instructor or peers.
4. Prepare to engage in live class sessions, discussions, and other activities so you can be a contributor as well as receiver of knowledge and skills.
5. Actively participate in engagement activities which will include live virtual class sessions, online discussions, and interactive learning opportunities -as this is vital for learning and success in both this course and the program.
6. Work ahead when possible, completing assignments ahead of due date so you are prepared to submit on the due date.
7. Sign into the D2L course multiple times during the week to access updated announcements or posted resources.
8. Check your university email daily. This is the official method of communication by the university, department, and instructor.
9. Be open and focused on the “process” and not the “product” as earning this degree requires time, effort, work and ultimately growth in knowledge, skills, abilities along with personal and professional attributes.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Travel journal that will include daily critical reflections on assigned readings, videos, individual and panel guest lecturers/presentation, active learning experiences and site visits to governmental and nongovernmental organizations

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

School of Social Work and Council on Social Work Education Specific Policies

Course Engagement

Final Evaluation and Grade Depends on both Classroom attendance and Participation

Inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment in each class significantly affects students' grades. No matter the course venue, students must engage in a comparable amount of time. Expectations of both Face-to-Face classes and those with Online components include time spent reading and studying course material. To earn a level of competency within a specific course, students must demonstrate both mastery of content and active engagement.

Mastery of content areas is evidenced by successful completion of course assignments such as written papers, group project deliverables, tests/quizzes and other tangible products designed by instructors to evaluate knowledge and skills.

Additionally, the Social Work Profession is built upon human interactions and building human relationships – which is defined as engagement. Engagement is defined as meaningful involvement in interactions with instructor, peers, outside stakeholders as appropriate (such as contacting a social worker to interview for a required assignment). Within the classroom setting, whether virtual or F2F, students must actively participate in 80% of engagement activities as outlined by individual instructors. These activities may include, but are not limited to participation in live, synchronous virtual classes, attending a Face-to-Face course when appropriate, interacting with peers in posted discussions and collaborating in group interactive projects.

Students must meet standards for content mastery on tangible assignments and meet the threshold of active engagement of the time set during a semester by the instructor.

Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet for successful completion of the course.

Student Conduct

Students preparing to become professional social workers must adhere to the *University Code of Conduct, Department Code of Conduct and National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics*.

Department Code of Conduct

"Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/lab/internship practicum or to block access to online courses and may refer offenses to the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API)] or to the Department Head. More serious offences by be referred to the University Police

Department and/or the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action" (Student Guidebook p 35)

Social Work students conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Closely linked with professional recognition is the social worker's compliance with the profession's ethical standards. It is imperative for professional social workers to be competent and ethical in practice if the profession is to maintain the public trust. It is essential that each social work student gain a thorough understanding of the ethical principles that guide practice and actively demonstrate in behavior, both in and out of the classroom. Student conduct is to reflect the tenets of *NASW Code of Ethics* (located at <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>) on the NASW website: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

University Code of Conduct *located in the Student Guidebook at* <http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf> (pp 34- 66). On the University Website under Campus Life Documents
To become aware of university policies related to student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the Guidebook

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

| DATE | LOCATION | | ACTIVITIES |
|--|------------------------|---|---|
| 05/16 (Tuesday) | Texas to Costa Rica | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departing Texas arriving in San Jose Costa Rica @ 12:40 PM • Check in at Soltis Center • Lunch on the way (individual pay*) • Dinner at Soltis Center • Welcome and Orientation talk |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Airlines Flight # AA1053. Departs DFW @ 10:24 AM and Arrives in San Jose Costa Rica @ 1:36 p.m. | | | |
| 05/17 (Wednesday) | San Jose Costa Rica | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the Soltis Center • Dr. David Scott (Social Worker) Meeting • Lunch at Soltis Center • Guided Hike into Rain Forest and waterfall of Center • Return to Soltis Center • Dinner at Soltis Center |
| 05/18 (Thursday) | | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at Soltis Center |

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depart to Chachagua • Visit Chachagua Highschool • Visit San Francisco School • Lunch at local restaurant (individual pay*) • Visit Arenal Volcano National Park and La Fortuna • Dinner at Soltis Center |
| 05/19 (Friday) | | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at Soltis Center • Depart to Ciudad Quesada • Meeting with PANI • Lunch at Happy Land Restaurant* (individual pay) • Free time in La Fortuna (Shopping – Souvenirs) • Baldi Hot Springs • Dinner at Baldi |
| 05/20 (Saturday) | Check out of Soltis Center | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at Soltis Center • Check out of Soltis Center • Depart to San Jose • Visit Central Market and San Jose area • Lunch on the way * (individual pay) • Option: Visit National or Jade Museum (* entrance fee individual pay) • Check in at Hotel: Holiday Inn San Jose-Aurola 5th |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | | | <p>Avenue 5th street San Jose, 1000 506-25-231000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner * (Individual pay) |
| 05/21 (Sunday) | Hotel Aurola Holiday Inn | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at Hotel • Depart to Zapote • Visit Farmer's Market • Depart to Coffee Plantation • Lunch at Coffee @ Doka Coffee Plantation • Tour of Coffee Plantation • Dinner *Individual pay @ local restaurant |
| 05/22 (Monday) | | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at Hotel • Depart to Atencion Semi Institucional para La Mujer (8:00 a.m.) • Lunch * (individual pay) • Visit Asociacion Obras del Espiritu Santo • Return hotel • Dinner * (individual pay) |
| 05/23 (Tuesday) | | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the Hotel • Meeting with Mariangel Sanchez at UCR Trabajo Social School • Lunch* (individual pay) • Visit AGEKO (2:00 p.m.) • Dinner* (individual pay) |

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 05/24 (Wednesday) | Depart San Jose to return to Texas | | |
| American Airlines Flight #1080 Departs San Jose Costa Rica @ 1:46 p.m. and arrives DFW @ 7:15 p.m. | | | |