



**COURSE TITLE/SECTION:**

SOCW 7360 International Social Work: A comparative approach (China and US)

**TIME:** Summer 2014 (Travel Schedule: June 5 to June 22, 2014)

**FACULTY:** Patrick Leung, PhD & Monit Cheung, PhD

**OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment

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**I. Course**

**A. Catalog Description**

A comparative study of policies, practices and research between the U.S. and a country (or countries) outside of the United States 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 the countries (US and the country/countries outside of 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 abroad.

**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 a country (or countries) outside of the United States. 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 a targeted foreign country/countries.

**Required Pre-Departure Orientation:**

Objective: To understand cultural differences and develop a framework to compare the social welfare policies and practices in China and US

Venue: GCSW classroom (classroom to be announced)

Dates & Time:

- March 18, 2014 (Tuesday) 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- April 8, 2014 (Tuesday) 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- May 6, 2014 (Tuesday) 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Required Post-Study Meetings:**

Objective: To discuss recommendations for social welfare policies and practices in the United States; to finalize the final paper

Venue: GCSW (classroom to be announced)

Dates & Time: (to be announced)

Individual appointments with Dr. Leung or Dr. Cheung before July 24, 2014.

#### IV. Course Requirements

All four groups of assignments described below are interrelated with an aim to help students organize their learning through critical thinking and observations.

**A. Reading Assignments and Participation (45 points)**

Students are expected to read the assigned readings before the start of the journey, attend the orientation and post-study meetings. Readings are to be incorporated in the paper to reflect your critical analysis of your travel learning. All students must attend all required agency/university visits/conference workshops (if applicable) and at least 2 workshops based on your topic of interest in the Conference entitled "Comtemporary Social Work: from Education to Practice, and report your learning and thoughts in your Journal.

**B. Journal (10 points)**

A brief summary from the start of the journey is to be recorded. It should focus on learning that compares and contrasts the policy and practice implementation of a chosen area or field in social services between the two countries. A reflection of your daily experience is required. A day-by-day journal is to be typed and turned in as an appendix to your paper.

**C. Paper (45 points)**

Write a paper (10 pages, double spacing, APA style) to analyze a policy issue and/or practice implementation on a focused area in social services of your choice with a comparative focus between China and US. You may pick specific locales in these two countries for the comparison. If your focus does not seem to fit the comparative nature, please discuss with the instruction before the start of the trip. At least 10 references from multiple sources (journals, books, and websites) should be included to support your analysis. Your typed journal should be attached to the end of this paper as a support to your analysis. Due date: [August 4, 2014](#) via [pleung@uh.edu](mailto:pleung@uh.edu). (Note: Please give a unique title for your paper. When you email your file, please use your name as your file name and put "China paper" as the subject area on your email.)

**D. Presentation**

A PowerPoint presentation after the trip or at the conference is required to

describe your findings and discuss recommendations in either practice or policy (or both) for the United States based on reading or practice or research.

**V. Reading List (\*Accessible through Academic Search Complete <http://info.lib.uh.edu/research/findarticles.html>)**

1. \*Adams, J., & Hannum, E. (2005). Children's social welfare in China, 1989-1997: Access to health insurance and education. *China Quarterly*, 181, 100-121.
2. \*Chow, N. (2008). Social work in Hong Kong—Western practice in a Chinese context. *China Journal of Social Work*, 1(1), 23-35.
3. \*Chen, X. (2003). The social impact of China's one-child policy. *Harvard Asia Pacific Review*, 7(1), 74-76.
4. \*Feng, Y., & Cheung, M. (2008). Public policies affecting ethnic minorities in China. *China Journal of Social Work*, 1(3), 248-265.
5. \*Fulcher, L. C. (2003). The working definition of *social work* doesn't work very well in China and Malaysia. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 13(3), 376-387. doi: 10.1177/1049731503251984
6. \*Mi, Y. (2008). Social assistance and poverty reduction in China. *China Journal of Social Work*, 1(2), 189-194.
7. NOVA. (1984). China's only child. TV program broadcast February 14, 1984.
8. \*Shang, X., Wu, X., & Wu, Y. (2005). Welfare provision for vulnerable children: The missing role of the state. *China Quarterly*, 181, 122-136.
9. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. (1990). <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>
10. \*Yuen-Tsang, A.W.K., & Wang, S. (2008). Revitalization of social work in China: The significance of human agency in institutional transformation and structural change. *China Journal of Social Work*, 1(1), 5-22.

**VI. Evaluation and Grading**

Because of the practice nature of this course, no incomplete will be given. Late papers will suffer a one-point deduction per day (including weekends and holidays, if any), unless prior approval has been obtained from your instructor.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A = 96-100% of the points | C+ = 76-79.9%             |
| A- = 92-95.9%             | C = 72-75.9%              |
| B+ = 88-91.9%             | C- = 68-71.9%             |
| B = 84-87.9%              | D = 64-67.9% (No Credit)  |
| B- = 80-83.9%             | F = Below 64% (No Credit) |

**VII. Consultation**

Please discuss your paper with Dr. Patrick Leung or Dr. Monit Cheung, before, during or after the trip.

**VIII. Attending a conference in Hong Kong**

Conference on Social Work and Social Sustainability in Asia

Organizers: City University of Hong Kong Department of Applied Social Studies

Venue: City University of Hong Kong

Date & Time: June 19 to 21, 2014 (Thursday to Saturday)

Discussions will be on **Practice, Policy and Education**; the emphasis is on the systematic application and generation of knowledge and intervention to result in evidence-based outcome in social work and social development.