

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Syllabus: SW-540 – General Topics in Social Work:
The Social Welfare System of South Africa
Spring 2006**

CODE OF CONDUCT:

It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook (<http://www.csw.utk.edu/mssw/>).

THE HONOR STATEMENT:

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (*Hilltopics, 2005*).

DISABILITY:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 191 Hokies Library at (865-974-6087). This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a learning experience that will familiarize students with South African social welfare policies and practices. The course will focus on the delivery of social welfare services to the diverse populations living in the new South Africa and the social context within which these programs and policies exist. Special emphasis will be placed on issues of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, health care, and cultural aspects of service delivery.

COURSE RATIONALE:

The purpose of this course is to deepen students' understanding of the rights and responsibilities of being a member of an increasingly global society and to promote cross-cultural learning. Social workers, regardless of practice setting, encounter the individuals and systems impacted by culture. In order to respond to the needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities effectively, it is essential that social workers understand the multicausal nature of the phenomenon of the person in the environment. This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and sensitivity to cross cultural practice through a cross-cultural learning experience. This non-traditional teaching format is designed to further facilitate the development of cross-cultural skills and experience through short-term immersion in the culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

1. To analyze of the sociopolitical-history of social welfare in South Africa;
2. To analyze of the social, economic and political forces that have shaped the development of social welfare systems in South Africa;
3. To analyze of the promotion of social justice and how this enhances the well being of people in historically oppressed groups;
4. To analyze of some of the major trends and issues in specific areas of social work practice in South Africa: HIV/AIDS, health care, substance abuse;
5. To analyze of the intercultural dynamics of the racial, ethnic and cultural groups and the impact on the social service delivery systems;
6. To recognize and critique policies and practices relevant to racial diversity, cultural diversity, gender differences and discrimination;
7. To compare and contrast the social welfare system in South Africa to the social welfare system of the United States.