

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**MAYMESTER ABROAD IN LONDON**

<b>Course Number and Unique Number:</b> SW 460K, 63220; SW495K, 63625; WGS 440, 46155	<b>Instructor's Name:</b> Ruth Rubio, LMSW-AP
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<b>Semester:</b> Spring 2005	<b>Office Phone:</b> (512) 471-8214
<b>Meeting Time and Place:</b> May 23 to June 16, 2005 London, England	<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment

**LONDON—ROOTS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE:  
AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE  
(4 credit hours)**

**I. Course Description**

The course is designed to teach the historical roots of the professionalization of helping others and the profession of social work. The course focuses on the governmental social services delivery system and its impact on client populations, and the diverse cultures living in London that provide the context for social services. The course is taught through cultural immersion in ethnic neighborhoods, field visits, and seminars. The purpose of this course is to deepen students' understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in an increasingly global society. A further goal is to promote cross-cultural learning, and to expand critical appreciation of the social framework in which we live as it relates to the moral and ethical problems encompassed by social justice. The course involves a 10-hour volunteer component with Toynbee Hall, or another London based social service agency.

Students enrolled in this course will also be required to attend meetings with the professor and orientation in order to prepare them for the study abroad Maymester course. Meetings will be held in the spring for a total of about 6 hours; schedule is to be announced.

## II. Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of the British roots of the professionalization of helping others;
2. Awareness of the social, economic and political forces that have shaped the development of social welfare systems in the United Kingdom;
3. Knowledge of the ways in which social services promote social justice and enhance the well being of people in various, historically oppressed groups;
4. Understanding of some of the major issues and trends in various areas of social work practice such as child welfare, domestic violence, immigration, and substance abuse;
5. Critical analysis of the intercultural dynamics of the various ethnic and cultural groups and the impact on the social service delivery system.

## III. Texts and Materials

Required:

Barker, Robert (1999) Milestones in the Development of Social Work and Social Welfare. NASW Press: Washington, DC

Healy, Lynne (2001) International Social Work. Oxford University Press: New York

London, Jack (2001) People of the Abyss, Centenary edition. Pluto Press: Sterling, Virginia

Reserve readings are available on e-reserve at <http://reserves.lib.utexas.edu/eres/>

## IV. Course Requirements and Grading

This study-abroad course is taught by a clinical faculty member of the UT School of Social Work and it is taught in London over a four-week period. Students must live in university-provided housing, participate actively in scheduled field visits, intercultural activities, seminars, and class discussions. This course is offered with the cooperation of the UT Center for Global Educational Opportunities and the AIFS (American Institute for Foreign Study), which is the local provider/coordinator in London. Grading is based on attendance, participation, completion of volunteer service, journals and a reflection paper. Graduate students have an additional assignment as specified in this syllabus.

### Social Justice Issue Groups

The class will divide into small groups that are called Social Justice Issue Groups. Each small group will have about 3-6 students and will focus on one social justice issue that is of common interest to the group members. The social justice issues for this course are immigration, child protection, chemical dependency, and human sexuality/gender. Other issues will be considered, as the interests of class members dictate. Each group will

identify and visit 2 or 3 social service agencies and/or community resources that focus on the issue selected. Findings of the small groups will be shared during meetings of the full class. See the attachment for more information.

#### Volunteer Opportunity

Students are required to arrange and complete a 10-hour volunteer component at Toynbee Hall, or another London based social service agency. The historic Toynbee Hall is located in one of London's poorest neighborhoods, referred to as the East End. This neighborhood has served as home to waves of immigrants seeking increased social and economic opportunities. The East End and other neighborhoods in the London area provide a unique opportunity to experience diverse cultures that form the multicultural fabric of this metropolitan area. Alternatively, students may complete the volunteer component at an agency of their choosing. The 10 hours may be completed either in one week or during the course of the four-week period, depending on the needs of the volunteer site and the student. See the attachment for more information.

Students will complete the Journal on the Volunteer Experience and submit it to the instructor by June 9, 2005. This journal will document the student's volunteer experience. Refer to the attached Journal on the Volunteer Experience.

#### Weekly Journals

Students will keep a journal on their reactions to and analysis of their overall experiences including guest speakers, field visits, seminars, and assigned readings. Journals will be submitted to the instructor on the following dates: May 30 and June 6, 2005. Journals are expected to be approximately 2-3 pages in length, typed and double-spaced. See attachment for more information.

#### Reflection Paper

Students are required to write a Reflection Paper on one topic. Students may choose one of the following two different topics on which to focus. The topics are: 1) reflecting on the experience in the Social Justice Issue Groups, or 2) reflecting on the student's ethnic identity in the context of the experience in London. The purpose of each of these papers is to give students an opportunity to integrate and critically evaluate their experiences. The Reflection Paper will draw from the individual students' experiences and require analysis and examination of the learning that has occurred. In either paper, the student must address issues of social justice and integrate the assigned readings. The Reflection Paper is to be 5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced. This assignment is due to the instructor on June 13, 2005. See the attachment for more information.

#### Graduate Assignment

Graduate students are required to plan and implement a 20 to 30 minute oral presentation that will focus on social justice and one of the central topics of this course--the history of social work, the cultural and ethnic diversity of London, and/or the governmental social service delivery system. Students may work in small groups of 2 or 3 individuals; or, students may work individually. Students will have the choice of making their presentation to this class during the fourth and final week of the course. Or, students may opt to make their presentation to a class in the fall semester. Creativity and use of audio-visual aids is encouraged.

Summary of Assignments for **Undergraduate** Students

Specific grading criteria for each assignment are outlined in the attachment that describes the assignment in detail. The grade for this course will be assigned by your instructor and will be derived in the following manner:

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
5/30/05	Weekly Journal #1	15
6/6/05	Weekly Journal #2	15
	Social Justice Issue Group	10
	Volunteer Experience	10
6/9/05	Journal on Volunteer Experience	15
6/13/05	Reflection Paper	55
	Participation and attendance	10
	Overall timeliness	5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

135 to 122	A
121 to 108	B
107 to 95	C
94 to 81	D
Below 81	F

Summary of Assignments for **Graduate** Students

Specific grading criteria for each assignment are outlined in the attachment that describes the assignment in detail. The grade for this course will be assigned by your instructor and will be derived in the following manner:

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
5/30/05	Weekly Journal #1	15
6/6/05	Weekly Journal #2	15
	Social Justice Issue Group	10

	Volunteer Experience	10
6/13/05	Journal on Volunteer Experience	15
6/14/05	Reflection Paper	55
	Graduate Assignment	30
	Participation and attendance	10
	Overall timeliness	5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

165 to 148	A
147 to 132	B
131 to 115	C
115 to 99	D
Below 99	F

## **V. Class Policies**

### Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (512) 471-6259, (512) 471-4641 TTY. Students with disabilities are expected to inform the instructor so that appropriate academic accommodations may be planned. Before course accommodations are made, students may be required to provide documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students, Services for Students with Disabilities, who will then inform the instructor of accommodations that should be provided for the student. The location of this course is in London and this may limit the availability of accommodations.

### Attendance and participation

Attendance and participation for the full course period is expected of all students. After a total of two days of absence, the student may be dropped from the course or their course grade may be lowered. Students are expected to notify the instructor prior to class if a student cannot attend due to illness or an emergency. Students may be asked to document the illness or emergency.

### Following Proper Channels for Communication and Conflict Resolution

Students are expected to use identified channels for resolving concerns that arise during the course period. In the case of conflicts on group projects, students are expected to

first address the concerns directly with the involved parties. If this is unsatisfactory, then consult with the instructor. For concerns regarding housing and logistics, the local provider/coordinator in London is the primary contact. Students should be prepared to discuss concerns and offer possible solutions.

### Safety

Students will have assignments that involve visiting and volunteering in agency settings in London. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession of social work. Students are advised to visit agencies in small groups. It is the student's responsibility to use sound and mature judgment, and to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to community safety. Students should also notify the instructor and the local provider/coordinator regarding any safety concerns.

### Respect for others in the class

Class discussions, field trips, and presentations will entail listening to the opinions and concerns of others with openness. Students are expected to offer suggestions, questions, and ideas in a positive and respectful manner when participating in course activities. Also, students are expected to demonstrate a willingness to promote group cohesiveness in the learning environment.

### Time Management

Assignments must be turned in on time. Contact the instructor before the assignment is due if other arrangements need to be made due to an emergency. Late points may be deducted for assignments submitted after the deadline.

### Absence for Religious Holidays

A student who misses classes or other required activities for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

## Social Justice Issue Groups

### Maymester Abroad in London

#### **Description**

The class will divide into small groups that are called Social Justice Issue Groups. Each small group will have about 3-6 students and will focus on one social justice issue that is of common interest to the group members. The social justice issues for this course are immigration, child protection, chemical dependency, and human sexuality/gender. Other issues will be considered, as the interests of class members dictate. A form entitled Confirmation of Visits will be submitted to the instructor after all visits are completed.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to allow students to delve into social justice issues that are of interest to the student and relevant in London. Students will be able to explore one specific social justice issue in depth and bring their findings to the discussion of the full class.

#### Activities

Each group will identify social service agencies and/or community resources that focus on the issue selected. Prior to departure, students are expected to use web sites and email to contact the social service agencies and/or community resources to inquire about a possible visit to the location. Each group will schedule and plan for visits to 2 to 3 social service agencies and/or community resources. These visits are to occur during the four-week course period and at the times designated in the course schedule. Students are strongly encouraged to visit the social service agencies and/or community resources in groups. During these visits, students are expected to spend about two hours in the agency and surrounding environment, learn about the services offered by the agency or community resource, learn about the client population served by the agency or community resource, and consider the impact of the services on the clients and the community. Also, students are expected to obtain a signature of an individual at each agency on the Confirmation of Visits form. (See attached) Findings of the small groups will be shared during meetings of the full class. Submit the Confirmation of Visits form to the instructor.

#### Timeframes

*Before departure to London:* Research social service agencies and/or community resources; communicate with staff at the social service agencies and/or community resources; schedule a visit to the selected places; secure the specific location of the social service agencies and/or community resources in order to facilitate traveling.

*During the four week course:* Finalize plans to visit; travel to the social service agencies and/or community resources; meet with staff at the social service agencies and/or community resources to learn about the agency and its services; share information with the entire class. Submit the Confirmation of Visits form to the instructor.

#### Grading

The satisfactory completion of this assignment is worth 10 points. The total points will be assigned upon completion of visits to 2 or 3 social service agencies and/or community resources and submission of Confirmation of Visits form to the instructor.

## Confirmation of Visits to Social Service Agencies or Community Resources

*Please attach a pamphlet for each place you visit. The pamphlet may or may not be returned to you.*

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of visit \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Location /address of agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of agency/resource visited

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person at the agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Date of visit \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Location /address of agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of agency/resource visited

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person at the agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Date of visit \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Location /address of agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of agency/resource visited

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person at the agency/resource visited \_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteer Opportunity

### MAYMESTER ABROAD IN LONDON

#### **Description**

Students are required to arrange and complete a 10-hour volunteer component at Toynbee Hall, or another London based social service agency. The historic Toynbee Hall is located in one of London's poorest neighborhoods, referred to as the East End. This neighborhood has served as home to waves of immigrants seeking increased social and economic opportunities. The East End and other neighborhoods in the London area provide a unique opportunity to experience diverse cultures that form the multicultural fabric of this metropolitan area. Toynbee Hall offers volunteer opportunities in various areas, such as Services Against Financial Exclusion, Free Legal Advice, education, working with children and families, and working with older people.

Alternatively, students may complete the volunteer component at an agency of their choosing. The class is divided into small groups that are called Social Justice Issue groups. Students may volunteer in an agency that is related to the social justice issue in which they are interested. The 10 hours may be completed either in one week or during the course of the four-week period, depending on the needs of the volunteer site and the student. Students are encouraged to complete the 10 hours within the first three weeks of the course. Students are to seek general helping roles that are appropriate for community volunteers; students are **NOT** to perform professional social work duties.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Volunteer Opportunity is to give students direct experience and/or exposure in a helping role. The goal of the social work profession is to enhance human well being and help meet the basic human needs of all people. This opportunity allows a student to experience this role directly.

#### Activities

Each student will identify a social service agency and/or community resource that is of interest; perhaps the agency will be the same as those identified by the Social Justice Issue Groups (a related class assignment). Students are expected to use web sites and email to contact the social service agencies and/or community resources to inquire about possible volunteer opportunities. Each student will schedule and plan to volunteer for a total of 10 hours at a social service agencies and/or community resource. These 10 hours are to occur during the four-week course period and at the times designated in the course schedule. During the volunteer time, students are expected to perform a helping function and/or observe a helping professional. Students are to seek general helping roles that are appropriate for community volunteers; students are **NOT** to perform professional social work duties. Knowledge, critical thoughts, and impressions acquired during the volunteer opportunity will be shared during meetings of the full class.

Additionally, students will complete the Journal on the Volunteer Experience and submit it to the instructor by June 9, 2005. This journal will document the student's volunteer experience. Refer to the attached Journal on the Volunteer Experience. The journal should be 2-3 pages in length, preferably typed and double-spaced. Cite at least one assigned reading in the journal.

### Timeframes

*Before departure to London:* Research social service agencies and/or community resources; communicate with staff at the social service agencies and/or community resources about actual volunteer opportunities; schedule a 10 hour volunteer commitment at an appropriate site; secure the specific location of the social service agencies and/or community resources in order to facilitate traveling.

*During the four week course in London:* Finalize plans to volunteer; travel to the social service agencies and/or community resources; spend 10 hours total at the social service agencies and/or community resources in a helping role and/ or observing a helping professional; share information with the entire class; complete the Journal on the Volunteer Experience and submit it to the instructor by the deadline noted. Obtain the signature of a contact person on the Journal of the Volunteer Experience.

### Deadlines

Complete the 10 hours of volunteer work by the final day of this course. However, students are strongly encouraged to complete the 10 volunteer hours within the first three weeks of the course. Submit the Journal on the Volunteer Experience to the instructor by June 9, 2005.

### Grading

The satisfactory completion of this assignment is worth a total of 25 points:

Completion of 10 hours of volunteer work	10 points
Journal on the Volunteer Experience	15 points

The journal should be 2-3 pages in length, preferably typed and double-spaced. Specific grading criteria for the Journal on the Volunteer Experience are as follows:

Integration of course content and social justice	5 points
Depth of self-reflection and critical thinking	5 points
Reading cited, timeliness and clarity	5 points

## Journal on the Volunteer Experience

This journal allows you to: (1) to document your time and activity, (2) to integrate course content and social justice and (3) to reflect on your reactions to your volunteer experience. Submit this Journal to your instructor by June 9, 2005. Cite at least one of the assigned course readings. This journal should be 2-3 pages in length, preferably typed and double-spaced.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Phone & website \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name/Title of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Population served \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Services Provided \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Worked \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Reflections:

# Weekly Journal Guidelines

## Maymester Abroad in London

### Description

Students will write a Weekly Journal to convey their knowledge and understanding of the course content. Additionally, the journals are to tell of the student's social and emotional reactions to the overall class experiences and to express self-awareness and personal insight. Cite at least one direct reference from the assigned readings in each Weekly Journal.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Weekly Journals is to give students an opportunity to process their experiences, articulate coherent themes of social justice, and explore questions that generate from the overall class experiences.

### Activities

Students will keep a journal on their reactions to and analysis of their overall experiences including guest speakers, field visits, seminars, and assigned readings. The following items may be used to guide students in the journal writing process:

1. What are your thoughts about the British roots of the social work profession?
2. Discuss some of the social, economic and political forces that you have learned about that have shaped the development of social welfare systems in the United Kingdom. Give your reflections on each.
3. Discuss your understanding of the specific ways that social services in London promote, or limit, social justice and enhance the well being of people in various, historically oppressed groups?
4. What is your analysis of some of the major issues and trends in various areas of social work practice such as child welfare, domestic violence, immigration, and substance abuse?
5. Identify the major cultural and ethnic groups in London that you have learned about and give your impressions of how the social services delivery system supports or neglects the unique needs of these groups.

Cite at least one direct reference from the assigned readings in each Weekly Journal. A different reading should be cited in each journal.

### Deadlines

Journals will be submitted to the instructor on the following dates: May 30 and June 6, 2005. Journals are expected to be approximately 2-3 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.

### **Grading**

Specific grading criteria for each of the Weekly Journals are as follows:

Integration of course content and social justice	5 points
Depth of self-reflection and critical thinking	5 points
Reading cited, timeliness and clarity	5 points

## **Reflection Paper on Study Abroad Experience**

### **Maymester Abroad in London**

#### Description

Students are required to write a Reflection Paper on one topic. Students may choose one of the following two different topics on which to focus. The topics are:

- 1) Reflecting on experience in the Social Justice Issue Groups, or
- 2) Reflecting on the student's ethnic identity in the context of the experience in London.

The Reflection Paper will draw from the individual students' experiences and require analysis and examination of the learning that has occurred. In either paper, the student must address issues of social justice, course themes and objectives and integrate the assigned readings. Cite at least three direct references from the assigned readings. Citations should be different from those included in the Weekly Journals. The Reflection Paper is to be 5 pages in length excluding the bibliography, typed and double-spaced.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to give students an opportunity to integrate and critically evaluate their entire study abroad experience.

#### Activity

Read all assigned readings. Attend all required class seminars, field trips, guest speakers and activities. Complete the Volunteer Opportunity and participate fully in the Social Justice Issue Group assignment. Listen to ideas and opinions of others in the class. Then, contemplate the entire experience. Reflect on your personal reactions and on the pertinence of the readings and class assignments to the entire experience. Critically analyze the readings and class assignments in light of the topic chosen for the Reflection Paper (see above).

#### Deadline

This assignment is due to the instructor on June 13, 2005.

#### Grading

This assignment is worth a total of 55 points. Specific grading criteria for the Reflection Paper is as follows:

Integration of social justice and course themes	15 points
Depth and breadth of personal reflection	15 points
Critical analysis	15 points
Readings cited, clarity and organization	10 points

## Graduate Assignment

### Maymaster Study Abroad in London

#### Description

Graduate students are required to plan and implement a 20 to 30 minute oral presentation that will focus on social justice and one of the central themes of this course--the history of social work, the cultural and ethnic diversity of London, and/or the governmental social service delivery system. Students may work in small groups of 2 or 3; or, students may work individually. Students will have the choice of making their presentation to this class during the fourth and final week of the course. Or, students may opt to make their presentation to a social work class in the fall semester. Creativity, use of audio-visual aids, and experiential teaching is encouraged.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to clearly organize and communicate the knowledge gained in the study abroad experience.

#### Activity

Decide whether to complete this assignment individually or in a small group. If the small group is chosen, then identify the small group members. Small groups are to be no larger than three members. Read all assigned readings. Attend all required class seminars, field trips, guest speakers and activities. Complete the Volunteer Opportunity and participate fully in the Social Justice Issue Group assignment. Listen to ideas and opinions of others in the class. Decide if the presentation will be made to the study abroad class in London, or to a social work class in the Fall 2005 semester. Inform the instructor of the choice. Then, prepare a 20 to 30 minute oral presentation. The presentation should focus on social justice and one of the central themes of this course--the history of social work, the cultural and ethnic diversity of London, and/or the governmental social service delivery system. Creativity, use of audio visual aids, and experiential teaching is encouraged.

#### Deadline

Inform the instructor about the choices made regarding format and schedule by June 2, 2005. There are two options in regard to the schedule: Option 1, present to this class in London, and Option 2, present to a class in the fall semester.

*Option 1, Present in London.* The presentation will be on June 15, 2005 in the afternoon. This will complete the requirements for the course. And, a final grade will be noted.

*Option 2, Present in the fall.* The small group or individual is responsible for arranging and scheduling this presentation with social work class instructors, either graduate or undergraduate, and the instructor for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the presentation in the first half of the Fall 2005 semester. A grade of "Incomplete" will be noted at the end of the four-week period for this course; at the time of completion of this assignment, the final course grade will be submitted.

#### Grading

This assignment is worth a total of 30 points. Specific grading criteria are as follows:

Critical analysis, integration of social justice and course themes	10 points
Clarity and organization	10 points
Creativity and participation of all group members, if applicable	10 points