

**San Diego State University**  
**School of Social Work**  
**SW: 780 International Social Development: Mexico**  
**SW 780 06SU 79402 ET**

### **Purpose and Description**

This course is intended to introduce students to the role of social work in international development, with a focus on the Baja Peninsula. Students will gain an understanding of how the unique social work person-in environment perspective contributes to social and economic development activities, and will develop skills in cross cultural engagement. Concepts of locality development, community capacity building, and community resource and problem assessment will be amplified through the use of primary and secondary data. The need for reciprocity in international collaboration will be emphasized, along with practical experience in working with multi-disciplinary teams. Students will gain an understanding of transborder and binational social welfare issues resulting from the geographic proximity of Mexico and the United States. The impact of language, history and cultural paradigms on the process of engagement and community practice in Mexico will be examined, along with the importance of working with other disciplines in environments in which social work is an emerging profession. This course combines theories of international social work practice, social development, and community development with an opportunity to utilize research methods and data analysis “in vivo”

### **Course Objectives**

#### *Knowledge*

1. Understand the community context within which social welfare and social development activities take place in Baja, Mexico.
2. Identify social development and community organizing interventions and their appropriate utilization in another country
3. Apply knowledge of research methods, data collection and data analysis to a community needs assessment
4. Understand and apply theories of social development and locality development to a specific community in another country
5. Become familiar with concepts of reciprocal international engagement

#### *Skills*

1. Ability to engage with individuals and organizations from a different culture in a meaningful and reciprocal manner
2. Participate collaboratively on interdisciplinary bi national work teams with an emphasis on social development

3. Collect and analyze data on community well-being, social problems, systems and infrastructure realities, for the purpose of informing community decision making
4. Engage in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner with professionals, policy makers, and community members in rapidly developing communities.
5. Collaborate with students from other disciplines and another country in accomplishing a community needs assessment.

### *Values*

1. Recognize the importance of working binationally to identify and resolve social problems and their consequences.
2. Identify the importance of reciprocal engagement with communities in another country, including accepting responsibility for understanding the use of self in another cultural context.
3. Assess how one's personal and cultural values affect interaction and understanding in binational environments
4. Apply the NASW code of ethics to practice in a community context in another country

### *Outcomes*

1. Recognize values and cultural differences and how they affect cross national work
2. Apply social work person-in-environment principles to understanding community based social development work in another country
3. Utilize social work research and data analysis skills in a community-based social development project.
4. Demonstrate an ability to engage reciprocally with professionals, community members, and leaders in national context other than one's own.
5. Prepare for transnational or binational social work practice

### **Required Texts:**

Cox, D. & Pawar, M. (2006). *International social work*. Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications.

Midgley, J. (1997). *Social welfare in global context*. Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications.

Course Reader. A course reader will be available at the bookstore prior to departure.

**Assignments:**

**15-20 page research paper (30%)**

**Weekly Journal (40%)**

Each student will submit a weekly TYPED log (4 total). The purpose of the logs is for the student to reflect on the impact of the binational, multidisciplinary experience and personal changes that may occur over time in the following areas:

- a-impact of values, expectations and assumptions
- b-engagement with hosts
- c-views of social problems
- d-cultural competence
- e-language facility
- f-learning from the host culture

**Class participation/attendance/professional interaction (10%)**

**Community interviews/research project / community work (20%)**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

45 hours of class

<p>Week 1  3hrs/day for 5 days 15 hours</p>	<p>Introduction to Social Development</p> <p>How are social problems defined in different countries?</p> <p>What is the role of social work in international development?</p> <p>Review of Community Development</p> <p>Collecting information about issues in community development—data sources and methods</p>	<p>Midgley, J. (1997). <i>Social welfare in global context</i>. Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications. Chapters 1-4</p> <p>Cox &amp; Pawar (2006) <i>International social work</i> . Thousand oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Chapters 1,4,5,6</p>
<p>Week 2  2.5hrs/day for 4 days</p>	<p>Model of International Engagement</p> <p>The ecological model and</p>	<p>Midgley, J. (1997). <i>Social welfare in global context</i>. Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications, chapters 8-10</p> <p>Angeles, M. &amp; Carrilio, T. (in press) Well Being and</p>

10 hours	international social development  Community Needs Assessment	Social Problems in Loreto, BCS. Mexico. in Ganster P. and Invanova, A. <i>Loreto: the future of the first capital of the Californias</i>
Week 3  2.5hrs/day for 4 days 10 hours	Understanding data— --the Human development index --INEGI, CONAPO and other data  Defining “social problems”	Estes, R. J. (2005). Global Change and Indicators of Social Development. In Weil, M., Reisch, M., Gamble D.N., Gutiérrez, L., Mulroy, E.A., Cnaan. R., eds., <i>The handbook of community practice</i> . 508-528. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.  Carrilio, T and Ganster, P. (in press). The quality of life in Loreto: challenges and opportunities. . in Ganster P. and Invanova, A. <i>Loreto: the future of the first capital of the Californias</i>  Gerber, J.(in press) A comparative analysis of two poles of tourism development: Loreto and Los Cabos in Ganster, P and Ivanova,A. <i>Loreto: The future of the first capital of the Californias</i> .
Week 4  2.5hrs/day for 4 days 10 hours	Reciprocity and the transnational relationship	Carrilio, T., and Mathiesen, S. (2004) Developing a cross border, multidisciplinary educational collaboration. <i>Journal of social Work Education: an International Journal</i> , 7(1), 42-52.  Healy,L.M. (2001). Values and ethics for international professional action. In <i>International Social Work: Professional action in an interdependent world</i> .New York: Oxford University press:151-169.

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