Description of Course

The objective of Human Service Issues (HSE 210) is to expose students to the current issues and trends impacting the field of human services. Because the field of human services is multi-faceted, this course currently covers a wide variety of issues and client populations. These topics include welfare reform, domestic violence and child abuse, substance abuse, services for older adults, the Americans with Disabilities Act, mental health services, the criminal justice system, the homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, legal and ethical issues facing human service professionals and the impact of politics and policy on human service issues.

Objectives

Students should be able to:

(A) Identify the legal and ethical issues involved in international adoption.

(B) Understand the importance of culturally competent communication when interacting with clients from differing cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

(C) Discuss social welfare systems in other countries.

Methodology

The course will provide lectures, discussions and videos to:

A. introduce students to the concept of international adoption of Asian children by exploring
   a. legal requirements
   b. ethical/cultural considerations
   c. cost
   d. case study profiling a family who adopted two Korean children (video: Becoming Parents: Adoption, Insight Media, 2003)

B. explore differences in communication styles of clients from Asian, Hispanic and Middle Eastern descent by examining
   a. verbal behavior
   b. nonverbal behavior
   c. societal norms

C. compare and contrast the US social welfare systems to social welfare systems in other countries by examining approaches
   a. public assistance
   b. retirement
   c. health insurance
Assignment 7: International Adoption

**For this module, you will be using web resources rather than your textbook for assignments and message board topics. Please note all websites are also included in the LINKS section below**

Please visit [http://www.unicef.org/media/media_15011.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_15011.html) to answer the following:

1. What is "inter-country adoption?"

2. What abuses exist in this type of adoption?

3. What were the purposes of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption?

Please visit [http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_473.html#](http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_473.html#) to answer the following questions:

1. What CAN the US State Department do in regards to international adoption? What CAN'T they do?

2. What are the differences between the Orphan Petition forms I-600 and I-600A?

3. Discuss some of the differences foreign countries have in regards to the adoption process (see The Foreign Adoption Process).

4. Why is a medical examination required before a child can be adopted?

5. How can persons avoid adoption fraud? What are two common abuses in regards to international adoption?

6. How can a child adopted outside the US receive automatic US citizenship?

**Please scroll to the bottom of this website and click on "China" to answer the next set of questions. This section is also linked entitled "Chinese Adoptions" below.**

1. What age of children can be adopted in China?

2. Who is allowed to adopt a Chinese child?
3. What residency requirements exist for adoption in China?

4. How long does adoption of a Chinese child take?

5. Look at the various fees under "Chinese Adoption Fees." Adding all these fees, what would be a maximum amount a person would plan to pay? Keeping in mind that these fees do not include travel expenses, what do you think an "average" Chinese adoption would cost a family?

6. Examine the "Chinese Documentary Requirements." Do any of these requirements surprise you? Why or why not?

7. What are the document translation requirements?

8. What must a child obtain before they can enter the US?

9. Look at "What to take with you for the child." Why is taking all these products necessary?

**Message Board Topic:**

Review the information on inter-country adoption on http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/61274.htm What surprises you most about these statistics? What challenges do you think adoptive parents from the US and the international children they adopt would face in regards to respect for cultural differences?
Assignment 8: International Social Welfare

**You will again need to access web resources for this assignment**

Section 1: Social Welfare in Mexico

Please read the articles at
http://www1.worldbank.org/devoutreach/may05/article.asp?id=296 and
http://www.ifpri.org/media/innews/2002/050202.htm and
http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/ib/ib6.pdf to answer the following:

1. What is PROGRESA?

2. How are people selected for the program?

3. What does a family have to do to receive benefits from PROGRESA? How much (in US dollars) does a family receive each month for following these guidelines?

4. What improvements in education, child labor and health have happened as a result of PROGRESA?

Section 2: Social Welfare in China

Please visit

1. What are the residence and financial requirements for CSSA?

2. What is considered in the asset limit (click on prescribed limits)? What is the dollar amount for an able-bodied adult and a family of four?

3. What is the standard rate an elderly person who qualifies for CSSA receives in the following categories:
   a.) elderly over 60, 100% disabled
   b.) able-bodied under 60 in family with 3 able-bodied adults/children

4. In addition to CSSA standard rates, what supplements are available and what are the criteria for each?

5. Sum up the special grants that could be available to Hong Kong residents.

Look at the other social welfare programs available in Hong Kong. Pick one that interests you and write a summary of the program's major benefits and requirements.

**Message Board Topic:**

After you have completed this week's assignment, how do you think the US compares with other countries in regards to social welfare? Is there anything we could learn from these other countries?
Assignment 9: Cross Cultural Communication

Please visit [http://www.pbs.org/ampu/crosscult.html](http://www.pbs.org/ampu/crosscult.html) to answer the following:

1. According to the article, what is culture?

2. How are culture and communication connected?

3. What are the 6 fundamental patterns of cultural differences?

Now visit the following websites. Pay the most attention to the introduction, fun fact, appearance, behavior and communication sections.


1. When looking at the Asian countries of China and Japan, how are they different from each other? What cultural customs are the most different from the US?

2. When looking at the Middle Eastern countries of India and Saudi Arabia, how are they different from each other? What cultural customs are the most different from the US?

3. In looking at Mexico, what cultural customs are the most different from the US?

4. Why is the knowledge of international communication styles important to the human service professional?

Message Board Topic:

This week is the last week of the module on International Issues. How did you like the past few assignments? What new information did you learn? How do you think studying global issues can help you be a better human service professional?