



GLOBAL PROGRAMS COURSE FACT SHEET

SWRK 772: Postcolonial Social Work Practice: International Social Welfare in India

SPRING/SUMMER 2018 DATES

Course Dates

- Kolkata, India: May 15 – July 1, 2018
- Pre/post-program meetings: TBA, during the Spring semester

Travel Dates

- Departure for Kolkata: May 13 (Tentative)
- Departure for the US: July 2 (Tentative)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students examine the global welfare system and its engagement with marginalized communities. This six-week course in Kolkata, India, centers around a sex workers' collaborative in Sonagachi, one of Asia's largest red light districts. Interviews with the collaborative's workers and study of their grassroots movement are combined with class discussions and research projects in which students engage with texts on HIV, sex work, feminist postcolonial theory and international social work.

This is an approved course for the Global Human Rights certificate.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students receive assistance throughout the course from the Teaching Assistant, who will be with students for the duration of the trip and will show them around Kolkata upon arrival. In the beginning, trips to Durbar (the organization with which we will be working) will be organized by the TA, including a week-long orientation. A trip to buy necessary clothing items will also be organized. Students will meet many Durbar members as well as some established friends in Kolkata who are familiar with the program. Activities can take place as a group or individually, depending upon student preferences. Once students choose their research topic, each research group will travel to Sonagachi (Red Light District) three days per week. Times will vary depending on translator availability, but most work will be done between the hours of 10-4 on weekdays. Some activities, such as a Night Walk through Sonagachi and International Menstrual Hygiene Day will occur in the evening. Group debriefing will occur more frequently at the beginning of the trip, as well as at each class meeting.

PREREQUISITES

Eligibility

- Students do not need to speak a foreign language in order to participate in this course.
- This course is open to all Penn students, with preference given to SP2 students.

In order to participate in this course, students will need:

- A valid passport and visa
- Previous travel experience recommended but not necessary
- Familiarity with feminism and postcolonial theory
- Patience, flexibility, and open-mindedness

HOUSING AND MEALS

Housing

Students are not responsible for finding their own housing. They will stay in pre-arranged apartments and will share a bedroom and bathroom with a roommate. Every apartment includes a kitchen, living area, and dining table. Each apartment also has a caretaker to help with any issues that might arise and to cook some meals.

Meals

Students pay for their own food, which is very inexpensive in Kolkata. They may shop for groceries and cook their own food (with the exception of some meals that will be prepared by the caretaker). Students may also take advantage of the many restaurants in the neighborhoods where the apartments are located. Students should expect to spend \$20 or less per week on food expenses.

PROGRAM DESIGNATIONS

MSW Program

This course is designated as a clinical practice elective and a macro practice elective in the MSW program. It does **not** count as a policy option or research option.

MSSP Program

This course is pre-approved as an elective in the MSSP program.

Global Human Rights Certificate

This course is pre-approved to fulfill requirements for the Global Human Rights certificate.

COSTS AND FEES

Tuition and Fees

- Students are charged regular SP2 course tuition for this class.

Students also pay for the following on their own:

- Airfare
- Housing Rental (\$20/night; approximately \$840 for the course duration)
- 6 month tourist visa (estimated to be \$63 + FedEx cost)
- Metro rides (20 Rupees/day; approximately \$13 total for the duration of stay for students who use the metro everyday)
- Money for optional side trips taken by students on their own (i.e., long weekends to Darjeeling, Mumbai, Kerala, Jaipur/Taj Mahal, Singapore)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial Aid

This course is part of the **Spring 2018** schedule and will be billed accordingly. SP2 scholarship awards are applied to fall and spring semester bills, so students who are taking this course as part of their degree requirements and wish to have a portion of their award applied to the summer must notify the financial aid office by email at finaid@sp2.upenn.edu.

SP2 Student International Travel Fund

SP2 students may be eligible to receive an award from the SP2 Student International Travel Fund to offset a portion of the cost of airfare/program fee if they have financial need. Students apply for a travel award when they apply for the course, and they will be notified of their travel award amount before they need to commit to the class. Students who receive this award will have it distributed as financial aid and it is posted to the student's financial aid account in the term in which the course is offered.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions about the online application, course registration, and travel awards

Contact Emily McCully, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, at emccully@upenn.edu

Questions about financial aid

Contact the SP2 Office of Financial Aid at finaid@sp2.upenn.edu