

Social Work on a Latin American Context

Webinar brought to you by:
The BSW Mexico Consortium and

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Agenda

Regina McGoff

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Consortium Overview
- ▶ CGE's Experience and Involvement
- ▶ Program Overview
- ▶ Program Schedule
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Nuts and Bolts
- ▶ Next Steps
- ▶ Questions and Answers
- ▶ Resources

Introductions

Regina McGoff

- ▶ Nancy Rodenborg, Chair, Social Work, Augsburg College
- ▶ Antonio Ortega, Program Coordinator and Instructor, CGE Mexico
- ▶ Jay Palmer, Professor, Social Work, Winona State University and 2012 Visiting Faculty
- ▶ Ann Lutterman–Aguilar, Site Director and Instructor, CGE Mexico
- ▶ Margaret Anderson, Coordinator for Academic Programs Abroad, CGE
- ▶ Regina McGoff, Director, CGE



Consortium Overview

Nancy Rodenberg

- ▶ Formed by colleges/universities for the purpose of operating an undergraduate academic semester program to meet CSWE curriculum for a BSW degree.
- ▶ 2003: First “run” of the semester program, *Social Work in a Latin American Context*, based in Cuernavaca, Mexico
- ▶ Recipients of the 2006 CSWE Global Commission Partners in Education Award.



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Levels of Consortium Involvement

Margaret Anderson

Members

- ▶ Identify a primary representative from the social work faculty who actively participates in the governance of the Consortium.
- ▶ Courses offered through the home institutions as a part of the regular course offerings.
- ▶ Report grades to the home institution registrar.

Affiliates

- ▶ Schools are pre-approved so students can enroll without having to complete special paperwork.
- ▶ Students register as visiting students at Augsburg College and will be provided Augsburg College transcripts.
- ▶ May attend Managing Committee meetings and request to be voting members.

Non-Affiliate Institutions

- ▶ Students from other institutions are still welcome to apply on a space-available basis. Applications undergo additional review and vetting by the visiting faculty member to ensure that the curriculum will fit.

Current Institutions

Nancy Rodenberg

- ▶ Consortium Members: Augsburg College, Bemidji State University, St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas, Metropolitan State University, St. Cloud State University, St. Olaf College, University of Sioux Falls, and Winona State University.
- ▶ Affiliate Members: Bethel University, Seattle University, Northwestern College
- ▶ On-Site Collaborative Member: Escuela Nacional de Trabajo Social de la UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico) in Mexico City.

Center for Global Education: Involvement

— Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ The program is managed by the consortium
- ▶ CGE (both in Minneapolis and in Cuernavaca) handles most administrative and logistical details, along with critical program elements like orientation and homestay placements
- ▶ CGE staff on site, with extensive local knowledge and contacts, also work with faculty and students to select fieldwork placements

CGE Background

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ CGE mission:

“To provide cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical analysis of local and global conditions so that personal and systemic change takes place leading to a more just and sustainable world”

- ▶ Utilizes a unique experiential education pedagogy



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CGE's Experience

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ CGE has successfully and continuously run educational programs in Cuernavaca, Mexico since 1979
- ▶ Over 2350 students from more than 335 institutions have participated in CGE's academic programs abroad



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Program Overview

Jay Palmer

- ▶ Mission

“To develop cross-culturally competent social work professionals with a global perspective by providing transformative, experiential learning focused on social and economic justice.”

- ▶ Students learn directly from social workers & community leaders, do fieldwork in a Mexico organization, learn Spanish, and gain valuable knowledge and skills for working with diverse and immigrant populations.
- ▶ Social work courses taught by visiting US faculty member
- ▶ Spring semester



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Program Highlights

Nancy Rodenborg



- ▶ Educational focus
 - Social justice & transformational learning*
 - Experiential pedagogy
 - Global & intercultural social work/social welfare context immersion
 - Prepares culturally competent professionals to serve diverse populations
- ▶ Continuous assessment & program revision
- ▶ 2006 CSWE Global Commission Partners in Education Award

* Lehmann, B., Rodenborg, N. A., Herman W. R., & Robin, S. (2011). *Camabiamos Juntos (Changing Together): Student Voices on Transformation through a Social Work Semester in Latin America*. In Birkenmaier, J. M., Cruce, A., Burkemper, E., Curley, J., Wilson, R. J., & Stretch, J. J. (Eds.) *Educating for social justice: Transformative experiential learning*. Chicago: Lyceum Books.

Assessment of student learning

Nancy Rodenborg

- ▶ Students gained deeper awareness, knowledge or skill in the following areas*
 - Self perception & identity
 - Cultural self
 - Cultural competence
 - Ethnocentrism
 - Empathy
 - White privilege
 - Transforming action ~

I am more “intentional about making change... and find it is more pressing now to take action”...

* Lehmann, B., Rodenborg, N. A., Herman W. R., & Robin, S. (2011)

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Social Work Exchange

Antonio Ortega

- ▶ Exchange with the National School of Social Work at the UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)
- ▶ *Week 1:* US students attend social work classes at the UNAM in Mexico City, one of the largest and most prestigious schools of social work in all of Latin America
- ▶ *Week 2:* UNAM students travel to Cuernavaca for classes with US students, sharing dorm rooms and meals



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Homestays

Antonio Ortega

- ▶ Four-week homestay in Cuernavaca
- ▶ One-week homestay in a rural community impacted by emigration to the U.S. and Canada



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Fieldwork/Community Engagement

Antonio Ortega

Students gain hands-on experience, develop closer relationships in the community, and improve Spanish skills by doing fieldwork or volunteer work in a Mexican organization and then reflecting upon it within the context of courses.



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Diverse Range of Guest Speakers

Antonio Ortega

- ▶ Meet with a representative of the Afro-Mexican community
- ▶ Visit to a natural health clinic and meeting with a traditional healer
- ▶ Representative of the Mexican Department of Family Services
- ▶ Meet teachers and students at a pre-school for low-income students
- ▶ Excursion to an assembly plant and meeting with a manager
- ▶ Panel discussion with representatives of major political parties
- ▶ Gender and sexuality panel

Courses

Jay Palmer

Students choose four of the following four-credit courses:

- ▶ Social Work 294: International Social Welfare: The Mexican Context (required)
- ▶ Social Work 295: Comparative Social Policy
- ▶ Social Work 316: Work with Groups and Families: Theory and Practice
- ▶ Social Work 317: Social Work Fieldwork
- ▶ Spanish Language Course – over 16 options from beginning to advanced level



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Visiting Faculty Member

Jay Palmer

- ▶ A visiting faculty member teaches 1–2 semesters in Mexico
- ▶ Must be eligible to teach CSWE–accredited social work courses
- ▶ Preference is given to faculty from member and affiliated institutions



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International Social Welfare: The Mexican Context (required) Jay Palmer

- ▶ Develop understanding of current social, economic, political, and cultural realities in Mexico through an exploration of Mexican history and culture
- ▶ Particular emphasis on intercultural communication



Comparative Social Policy in Mexico and USA

Jay Palmer

- ▶ Prepare social work students to function as informed and competent participants in efforts to achieve change in social policies and programs
- ▶ Uses Mexico and the United States as comparative contexts for studying policy formation, implementation, and analysis, examining the influence of values and ideology of the two countries on these processes

Working with Families and Groups

Jay Palmer

- ▶ The Mexican context of family and group work is examined and uniquely Mexican models are explored and discussed in relation to current family and group theory
- ▶ Opportunities are provided in the classroom to practice the skills needed to be an effective member and facilitator



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Fieldwork in Social Work Course

Jay Palmer

- ▶ Contributes approximately 100–120 hours to the practicum hours required for the BSW degree for those students with Spanish language oral competency
- ▶ Some of the hours are met through visits to social work agencies, while the rest is met through students' placements
- ▶ A central feature of the field experience is the sharing of experiences with other students in a small group seminar.

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Spanish Language Courses

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ 16 options of beginning, intermediate and advanced classes
- ▶ Specialized classes including Spanish for Heritage Speakers, Conversations in Cultural Context, Contemporary Mexican Literature, Latin American Literature, Contemporary Latin American Women, etc.
- ▶ Opportunity to do an additional course in January prior to the start of the program or to stay for 2 courses in the summer

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Semester Schedule

Jay Palmer

Week	Primary Focus
1	Orientation
2-3	Start Spanish classes and other courses
4	Educational seminar in rural area
5-6	Last 2 weeks of Spanish classes and continue other courses
7-8	Other courses continue
9	Spring Break
10	Exchange in Cuernavaca with UNAM students
11	Seminar in Mexico City at the UNAM National School of Social Work
12-15	Urban homestay
16	Final projects/end of the semester
	Optional course afterwards in Cuba

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Health and Safety

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ Students are covered by Augsburg's EIIA/FROTIERMEDEX insurance (\$250 deductible)
- ▶ CGE maintains its standard emergency protocol, including 24 hours/day on-call number in Minneapolis and in Mexico
- ▶ CGE will not hesitate to re-route any part of a program should it appear unsafe for travel
- ▶ Risk management plan available on CGE's website –<http://www.augsburg.edu/global/safety-and-security/>

Application and Acceptance

Margaret Anderson

- ▶ Non-member/non-affiliate schools – curriculum is assessed to be sure there is a match before a student participates
- ▶ Deadline is October 15
- ▶ Applications are accepted on a rolling basis



Credits

Margaret Anderson

- ▶ Member schools – students sign up for courses at their own institutions
- ▶ Affiliate and non-affiliate schools – students register for Augsburg's courses and transfer credits



Program Cost and Scholarships

Margaret Anderson

- ▶ For 2013 the comprehensive program fee is \$16,500 and includes tuition, room, board, and all in-country program costs
- ▶ Some diversity and need-based scholarships may be available



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Next Steps

Margaret Anderson and Nancy Rodenberg

- ▶ Interested institutions are invited to arrange an interview with a social work professor from a consortium school who will assess whether the curriculum is a good match.
- ▶ This facilitates the process for students signing up for the program.
- ▶ Nancy is available to meet at APM!

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Questions and Answers

Regina McGoff



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Resources

- ▶ Program information page – <http://www.augsburg.edu/global/mexico/>
- ▶ Lehmann, B., Rodenborg, N. A., Herman W. R., & Robin, S. (2011). *Camabiamos Juntos (Changing Together): Student Voices on Transformation through a Social Work Semester in Latin America*. In Birkenmaier, J. M., Cruce, A., Burkemper, E., Curley, J., Wilson, R. J., & Stretch, J. J. (Eds.) *Educating for social justice: Transformative experiential learning*. Chicago: Lyceum Books

Site Visit

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ April 7–14, 2013
- ▶ Takes place during the UNAM exchange in Cuernavaca
- ▶ Opportunities for social work faculty to do a lecture on US social work
- ▶ The invitation is at:
<http://www.augsburg.edu/global/site-familiarization/>



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Other CGE Opportunities

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar

- ▶ Flexible options within the semester program
– opportunities to do full-time internships or customize other pieces within the semester
- ▶ Faculty-led programs – CGE can assist you in developing a short-term faculty led seminar for social work to Mexico, Central America, Cuba, Southern Africa. Find detailed information on the website.

Contacts

Regina McGoff

- ▶ Margaret Anderson, anderso4@augsborg.edu – general program questions, signing an agreement for the program, flexible semester options
- ▶ Nancy Rodenborg, rodenbor@augsborg.edu – arranging a meeting at APM
- ▶ Regina McGoff, mcgoff@augsborg.edu – visiting faculty member position, faculty-led programs

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