



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COURSE FACT SHEET

### SWRK 788: Harm Reduction on the Borders: Substance Use and HIV Treatment in Puerto Rico

SUMMER 2017 DATES
<p><b>Course Dates (Tentative)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In Fajardo, Puerto Rico: July 1 – July 31</li><li>• Pre/post-travel course sessions at Penn: TBA</li></ul> <p><b>Travel Dates (Tentative)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• July 1 – arrive in San Juan</li><li>• July 31 – depart San Juan</li></ul>
APPLICATION
<p><b>Application Deadline</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Application Process</b> Students must complete the online application in order to be considered for the course. If warranted, the course instructor may conduct application interviews. The online application can be accessed through the Global Opportunities webpage: <a href="http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/global-engagement/global-opportunities-for-sp2-students/courses-and-programs/">http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/global-engagement/global-opportunities-for-sp2-students/courses-and-programs/</a>.</p> <p><b>Notification and Registration</b> Students will be notified as to whether they have been accepted into the course. Accepted students will receive registration instructions from the Registrar.</p>
PREREQUISITES
<p><b>Eligibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge of a foreign language is not required, though Spanish is helpful.</li><li>• Any Penn student may apply for this course.</li><li>• No passport or experience abroad is necessary.</li></ul> <p><b>Prior to departure, students will need to submit the following paperwork to SP2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Review Form (with a health professional's signature)</li><li>• Liability Form</li><li>• Registration in Penn's Global Activities Registry</li></ul>

## HOUSING AND MEALS

### Housing

Students will live vacation-style in a shared rental. Bedrooms are typically shared with one other person, and a full bathroom is shared by 3 people. Students will also have access to a full, shared kitchen. Students are not responsible for finding housing.

### Meals

Students may take advantage of local grocery stores and markets to prepare food in their shared kitchen. Students may also elect to eat out; however, students are responsible for all food costs.

## PROGRAM DESIGNATIONS

### MSW Program

This course can count as a clinical practice elective or macro practice elective for MSW students. It does **not** count as a policy option or research option.

### Global Human Rights Certificate

This course is **not** pre-approved to count towards the Global Human Rights certificate.

## COURSE SIZE

The maximum enrollment for this course is 10.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

SWRK 788 examines the U.S.-based substance use and HIV treatment system, and its engagement with injection drug users in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. It is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the political economy of harm reduction initiatives, and the manner in which it is shaped by the complicated relationship between Puerto Rico and the U.S. Students are expected to gain an understanding of Puerto Rico's welfare environment, the role of social welfare and social workers in such a context, and the interweaving of social control and social change embedded in welfare initiatives in "borderlands" such as Fajardo. During the four week course in Fajardo, students will complete a placement in a needle exchange program, and engage with texts on HIV, substance use, postcolonial theory and international social work.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students will participate in a variety of activities, including field experience, class, and day trips. In their free time, students are encouraged to explore the island, as well as the nearby beach and El Yunque rainforest. The local islands of Vieques and Culebra are a short, \$2 ferry ride away and offer a rich history of social activism and land-rights issues.

For four days per week, students are at an organization called Intercambios. During this portion of the program, students work with a set of harm-reductionists seeking to better the lives of drug users on the island. Students meet professional public health and social work practitioners, as well as a solid volunteer base consisting of both recovering and active drug users seeking services from Intercambios. Some of the participants are also sex workers. Intercambios is a small organization making a large impact; they epitomize community-led programs.

Class is held once a week. The class is lecture and discussion based and is also used as an opportunity to debrief your experience.

## COSTS AND FEES

### Tuition and Fees

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

Participation in the course also includes the following expenses, which will either be charged as a program fee or paid individually by students:

- Lodging (estimated to be \$325/month)
- Rental car (estimated to be \$150/month)

Students also pay for the following on their own:

- Airfare to/from Puerto Rico (estimated to be \$450, but this can vary widely)
- Meals/groceries
- Incidental expenses

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Financial Aid

This course is part of the **Summer 2017** 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](mailto:finaid@sp2.upenn.edu).

### SP2 Student International Travel Fund

SP2 students may apply for an award from the SP2 Student International Travel Fund. This award is distributed as financial aid and will be posted to the student's financial aid account. To receive the award, students must complete the course and submit the receipt showing the total cost and flight details of their trip. Instructions for requesting an award from the SP2 Student International Travel Fund will be shared with students who enroll in the course.

## QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Questions about the course

Contact:

- Jeanette Bowles, course instructor: [jenbowles@epix.net](mailto:jenbowles@epix.net) , or [jmb579@drexel.edu](mailto:jmb579@drexel.edu)
- Sara Schwartz, TA: [schsara@sp2.upenn.edu](mailto:schsara@sp2.upenn.edu)

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

Contact Emily McCully, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, at [emccully@sp2.upenn.edu](mailto:emccully@sp2.upenn.edu)

### Questions about financial aid

Contact the Office of Financial Aid at [finaid@sp2.upenn.edu](mailto:finaid@sp2.upenn.edu)