Trauma is a universal experience with specific geographic and population effects as in the case of the Haitian earthquake disaster. Training students to be competent in service delivery and policy decisions regarding trauma-affected populations is a critical need for the public health infrastructure. Given the changing demographics of the U.S. population, it has become increasingly important to understand how racial and ethnic identity influences the perception, onset and manifestation of trauma. This course examines the psychological effects of racial and ethnic identity on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In this course you will look at the general ideas of identity development and its effects of PTSD symptomology from a psychological basis.

Following the fall semester course, a limited group of students will accompany the course faculty to Haiti during January, 2011 to further their education of, and contribute solutions to, the impact of the recent earthquake disaster on the people of Haiti. In order to do so in an ethical and culturally respectful way, the course is designed to enhance understanding of:

- the Haitian worldview (including the historical and political context of the peoples of Haiti) and our own multicultural competency,
- the long-term effects of psychological trauma and psychological aid, and interventions utilized in psychological first aid,
- how to provide culturally relevant information about compassion fatigue/self-care,
- appropriate intervention strategies and techniques for working with children, family, professionals, and others impacted by the disaster in Haiti,
- the mental health field's role in the cultural oppression of diverse peoples, particularly in Haiti,
- the socio-cultural-psychological-spiritual-political impact of disaster, specific to the Haitian experience.

This course is also offered for professional development general continuing education for area mental health professionals, human service professionals, educators and clergy.

Students taking PSY 559/459 – CPS 595 in fall 2010 will have the opportunity, on a selective basis, to travel to Haiti in January, 2011. Participants who successfully complete the course will have the option of travelling to Haiti to further their education of, and contribute solutions to, the impact of the recent earthquake disaster on the people of Haiti. Participation will be limited to those seriously motivated to contribute to that effort and will require approval by the course faculty following an interview. The Office of International Education and Programs will administer the travel portion of the program.
Housing and Meals

Students and faculty will be housed in suitable but basic accommodation in Haiti. According to the World Health Organization, following the earthquake Haiti is suffering from very poor, and often improvised, housing facilities including tents and other improvised shelters. With that in mind, lodging and meals provided by the program will be necessarily basic. More information will be discussed during the course.

Program Costs

Matriculated and non-matriculated students will register for the course through SUNY Oswego Extended Learning, paying tuition/course fee at that time. The costs below are only for the international travel program to Haiti administered by the Office of International Education and Programs.

Program fee: $2,450.00

The program fee includes the following:

- One coach international flight to and from Haiti, and transportation within Haiti;
- Most meals;
- Access to program sites and visit areas:
- Repatriation insurance coverage; and
- Accommodation in Haiti.

The following are not included in the program fee:

- Connecting flight within US – (varies);
- Passport cost - $100.00;
- Pre-departure inoculations / medical preparations (up to date shots and malaria drugs are recommended) - $400.00;
- Spending money - $200.00; and
- Additional meals - $200.00.

The above are estimates and vary per individual spending habits and individual needs.

Course Enrollment & Requirements

The optional study visit to Haiti will occur from January 5 - 15, 2011 (dates approximate). Only students enrolled in PSY 559/459 - CPS 595 will have the opportunity to participate. Participation in the Haiti trip will be selective. Participants who successfully complete the course will be selected for participation in the travel portion after an interview.

Once selected, students will be required to submit an application form and pay a non-refundable program deposit of $250 by September 15, 2010 to the Office of International Education and Programs. Full payment will be due by October 18, 2010.

To inquire and be considered for selection, interested students should contact one of the following:

Dr. Roger Brooks
(roger.brooks@oswego.edu)
Psychology Department
315.312.4013

Dr. Joshua McKeown
(joshua.mckeown@oswego.edu)
International Education & Programs
315.312.2118

Dr. Gerald Porter
(gerald.porter@oswego.edu)
Counseling & Psychological Services
315.312.4051

Dr. Barbara Streets
(barbara.streets@oswego.edu)
Counseling & Psychological Services
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