Romania’s (R)Evolution: Investing in Children and Families Across the Life Cycle

This course is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Students taking the course for credit will earn three or six credit hours and may be eligible for student loans.

**Dates:**
1) Online study: in US, May 1-May 20, 2015 (preparatory study)
2) In-country instruction: May 21-June 3, 2015 (Arrive May 20 & Depart June 4)
3) Service Learning/Field Education: June 4-17, 2014 (Depart June 18)

**Course Credit Hours:** This course utilizes a combination of online and in-country instruction for a 3-hour credit course and an optional 3-hour service learning experience. Social work students (MSW & BASW) that choose the service learning experience can apply up to 70 hours to their field placement hours in the Fall or Spring.

**Course Description:** The aim of the course is to examine the response to growing concerns for vulnerable populations in the years since the initiation of social welfare reforms in Post-Communist Romania and present day Romania as a member of the European Union. Of particular interest are minority and disenfranchised groups such as the Roma (gypsy), persons with mental and/or physical disabilities, children separated from their parents, children and adults in difficulty with the law, victims of trafficking, and older adults. Students will learn comparative perspectives on social work practice and social services in Romania drawing from interviews with local practitioners, academic literature, research initiatives, non-governmental (NGO’s), and public services. Good practices in social work are studied using a framework that incorporates both need and human rights perspectives for various risk groups across the life cycle. The course highlights preventative and protective approaches to risk groups. The course content covers: policies and laws, the structure of programs and services, human resource capacity and development, and outcome measures and evaluation. Students have an optional opportunity to apply some of their learning to practice through a volunteer experience in a selected community-based program that was visited.

**Travel and Course Information:** The course is based in Cluj, Romania (Transylvania) at Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB). Students depart from the US on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, arriving in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (airport CLJ) on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. Students stay in a university hotel that is double occupancy with internet access, bath, and kitchen facilities. The program consists of a combination of classes and field visits to public services and non-governmental health, education, and social service organizations. Romanian social work educators, researchers, and practitioners will join us for both didactic and field experiences. Included are cross-cultural and artistic events and a weekend excursion to various sites in Transylvania including Bran Castle (AKA Dracula’s Castle), Braşov, and the cultural capital of Sibiu.

**Program Leader:** Rebecca Davis, Ph. D., Associate Professor & Director, Center for International Social Work, Rutgers School of Social Work

**Program Estimated Costs:** The estimated cost of this trip, not including airfare, is $1700 (in-state) for the first 2 weeks and $1000 for service learning. This includes tuition, in-country accommodations, weekend excursion, museum fees, and 1-2 group meals. Other meals and personal travel are not included.

**Additional Information:** Rutgers Center for Global Education at http://globaleducation.rutgers.edu or email RU_abroad@gaiacenters.rutgers.edu