



**UNIV392 International Experience:
Western and Eastern Perspectives on Education,
Social Systems, and Mental Health
Fall Semester 2019 (Lecture)
Trip Date: January 2 - 15, 2020 (Tentative)**



Instructors:

Dr. Kimmy Kee-Rose

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Spring 2019 Office Hours: 12:00-1:30pm on

Mondays, 4:00-6:00pm on Tuesdays, 8:45-

9:45am and 2:00-3:00 on Wednesdays & 12:00-

1:00pm on Fridays

Dr. Hye Sun Lee

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Spring 2019 Office Hours: 10:00 am-12:00 pm

on Wednesdays & 3:00-4:00pm on Thursdays

Course Credit: 3 units for undergraduate students

Course Size: Limited to 24 CSUCI students (must be at least 18 years of age)

Course Description:

The primary goal of this interdisciplinary course is to explore different perspectives on education, social systems, and mental illness in Western and Eastern countries, particularly United States, Singapore, and Malaysia. An ancillary goal is to develop a basic understanding of the diverse peoples, religions, governments, and histories in Singapore and Malaysia, and to examine how these cultural and social factors influence the perceptions and treatment of mental health concerns.

Students will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills about the above-mentioned topics through classes conducted in the Fall 2019 semester and a field trip to Singapore and Malaysia in January 2020. During this trip, students will participate in the following activities: (1) visit mental health facilities and universities in Singapore and Malaysia and interact with faculty and students; (2) conduct a cognitive interview to assess cross-cultural fairness; (3) volunteer with local organizations; and (4) visit important cultural and historical sites in Singapore and Malaysia to gain a better understanding of the countries' traditions, cultures, and contemporary realities.

FAQ:

Q1. For whom is the course designed? Will there be any priority order when accepting students to the program?

Undergraduate students from all majors are invited to apply for this course, which is designed to provide fundamental knowledge about different perspectives on educational and social systems as well as mental health issues in Western and Eastern countries. Priority will be given to students who have not previously participated in a UNIV 392 course and are therefore eligible to receive CI's IRA support. *CI's IRA will be funding approximately 2/3 of the costs of trip for each student.*

Q2. How will students be selected? How are the instructors going to ensure that this opportunity is available to as many students as possible?

To ensure this UNIV 392 opportunity will be available to as many students as possible, we are going to use multiple channels for recruitment and several methods to select candidates for this course. Interested students will be invited to apply by emailing the following documents to both Dr. Kee and Dr. Lee:

(1) A personal statement of interest, explaining their reasons for applying as well as how they anticipate this course will benefit them academically, professionally, and personally;

- (2) Current resume (or CV); and
- (3) A letter of recommendation from a faculty member other than the course instructors, outlining the students' academic preparation and motivation for this UNIV 392 class.

In the event where the abovementioned documents do not provide a sufficient basis for narrowing down the pool of candidates to 24, the maximum size for our class, students will be invited to attend an interview with one of the course instructors. This interview will serve as an additional reference for student selection.

Q3. How will students' travel arrangements (e.g., accommodations, excursions, airfare, etc.) be managed?

Arrangements for part of the trip will be made by America Asia Travel Center Inc., a California-based travel agency. The agency will arrange the following for us:

- Roundtrip air travel between LAX and Malaysia via Singapore Airline with a stopover in Singapore.
- Hotel accommodation in Singapore via Singapore Airline Stopover Holiday Package. This package also includes free access to ALL cultural sites and attractions.
- Transfers between the hotel and Changi International airport in Singapore.
- Overnight stay at Aerotel transit hotel in Changi Airport.

While in Singapore, transportation from hotel to host university, mental health agency, cultural and attraction sites, and community service program will be arranged by Sino-America Tours Corporation. This travel agency will provide us with an air-conditioned charter tour bus.

The travel arrangements in Penang, Malaysia will be made by Speedy Travel and Transport Co. This agency will arrange the following for us:

- Transfers between hotel and Penang International airport.
- Hotel accommodation in Penang.
- Transportation from hotel to host university, mental health agency, cultural and attraction sites, and community service program via a charter tour bus.

Q4. Where will the students stay during the study abroad experience?

Students will be staying in hotels during the entire length of their trip. The hotels will be selected based on their location, security, comfort level and price. Students will be required to share hotel rooms (i.e., 2 persons per room).

Q5. Where can students find meals?

Food is relatively inexpensive in Singapore. Students can eat a meal for US\$5 to \$10. Like Singapore, food is also very reasonable in Penang. An average meal would cost US\$3.50. For fieldtrips, we will stop at local food courts or eateries during mealtime, and students can order their own food. There will also be plenty of food options within walking distance of the hotels in both countries. As such, students will have ready access to food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

An informational meeting about this course will be held on March 7 from 4:30 to 6:00pm at Broome Library, Room 1750. Please join us to find out more about this course.

