

## **MAY 2012 COURSE PROPOSAL: THE FINNISH WELFARE SOCIETY**

45 contact hours = 3 units

Kris Clarke

Department of Social Work Education

The purpose of this study trip is to take 5-10 graduate students of social work or related fields to participate in a graduate seminar on the Finnish Welfare Society at the University of Tampere, Department of Social Work Research, Finland. This course will consist of 25 seminar hours and 20 hours of field visits.

Instructors include: Professors Tarja Pösö, Kirsi Juhila, Hannele Forsberg (University of Tampere) and Satu Ranta Tyrkkö (researcher)

Course aims:

- To understand the emergence and evolution of the Finnish Welfare Society
- To understand how Nordic models of social welfare differ from other western models
- To understand how the Finnish Welfare Society is implemented in practice
- To understand how qualitative research has been used in social work

Seminar topics:

- Finnish history from independence to today
- Conceptual frameworks of the Finnish Welfare Society
- The legal framework of the Finnish Welfare Society
- Social services for vulnerable populations
- Emerging qualitative research in Finnish social work

A handbook of articles will be prepared for students to read before leaving so that they will have some background information on the Finnish welfare society as well as the articles the Finnish professors will discuss. Students will have the option to submit their research plan for thesis/project work (completed at the end of the spring semester in SWRK 261), if they wish for a seminar discussion with the Finnish professors.

Students will receive an orientation to Finnish social welfare history, policy, and practice. Field visits to day care centers, substance abuse rehabilitation centers, and other agencies will be arranged. At the end of the visit, students should have a more in-depth knowledge of Finland and its society, the various orientations of qualitative research, and concrete suggestions on how to advance their thesis/project work. The seminars will consist of some theoretical lectures on various qualitative methods (e.g. narrative, social constructionism, content analysis, etc.) along with discussions of the submitted papers.

## Itinerary with specific dates for the trip

May 21: Depart from San Francisco

May 22: Arrive in Helsinki; airport bus to Tampere

May 23: Rest day

May 24: Orientation to Tampere: Opening seminar

May 25: Seminar: Finnish welfare state

May 26: Walking tour of workers' Tampere, visit to Amuri museum and Lenin museum

May 27: Walking tour of Pispala district, Pynikki forest

May 28-30: Seminars and field visits

May 31: Free day

June 1: Day trip to Helsinki and walking tour

June 2: Wrap-up and farewell dinner

June 3: Depart

