Bulgarian Culture and Language Immersion: Fomenting Global Citizenship
Spring, 2018
(part of HCM 401 – Organizational Studies in Health Care, 4 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Borkowski, DBA, CPA, FACHE, FHFMA

Email: nborkows@uab.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: To be determined (if necessary)

Hosting School: School of Health Professions (SHP)

Readings: Selected readings will be posted on Canvas two weeks before departure

Lecture location: Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria

Lecture Meeting times: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Trip duration: From April 6, 2018 until April 21, 2018

Course Description:

The enigmatic Bulgarian culture and language trace their ancestry to the seventh century C.E. Asian Turkic people and Slavs merged in northeastern Bulgaria, and many other minority groups, including Turks, Gypsies, Armenians and Jews comprise the multi-ethnic demographics of Bulgaria. A member of the European Union since 2007, Bulgaria has experienced significant social, political, and economic transformations over the centuries. Trachian cultural roots serve as the foundation of Bulgarian civilization, and its rich heritage proudly demonstrates how a culture of inclusiveness has made it possible for Bulgaria to function as a cohesive nation over generations. Participants will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in Bulgarian language and culture through team-based, interactive activities within naturalistic settings, including historical sites and ancient cities such as Varna, Burgas, Plovdiv, and Veliko Tarnovo. Sponsored by the American-Bulgarian Fulbright Commission and Sofia University, students will have an opportunity to interact with expert historians, sociologists, linguists, economists and healthcare professionals to understand and develop cultural competency, vis-à-vis Geert Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions theory. Students will also develop a research-based project based on their lived cultural experiences while in sojourn and present their findings to UAB faculty and students in structured presentations.

Course Objectives:
The overarching purpose of this course is to allow students to immerse themselves in Bulgarian language and cultural experiences while in sojourn in Bulgaria for two weeks so that they can develop cultural competency as global citizens. Students will be able to:

1. Apply acquired knowledge and lived experiences in their research project.
2. Analyze current trends in Bulgarian society and culture as they apply to health professions.
3. Synthesize quantitative and qualitative data to make connections between their lived experiences and Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions theory.
4. Evaluate individual and group performance via peer-review alternative assessment techniques.
5. Shared findings and gained experiences with the UAB community within two months after returning from overseas trip.

Course Structure:
This course will focus on team-based or collaborative learning activities and guided lectures. Students will interact with expert faculty from Sofia University and with their peers to solve problems, analyze factual information, engage in discussions and propose solutions. Before departure, students will read selected materials regarding the importance of being culturally competent in globalized societies. The underlying theory leading interactions will be Hofstede’s Cultural Dimension theory. Students will be able to acquire basic knowledge of Bulgarian language and culture through a variety of means, including structured presentations, roundtables, field trips, and cultural events. These field trips will provide students with a deeper understanding of Bulgarian covert culture so that they can discern beliefs, perceptions, attitudes and values of this culture in addition to the overt (or surface) aspects of the culture, such as language forms, food, and artifacts.

Course Requirements:

*Note: All deliverables are submitted via Canvas*

1. **Pre-departure:**
   - Complete Study Away questionnaire (10 points)
   - Read Chapter 2 – Diversity and Cultural Competency in Healthcare in Organizational Behavior, Theory, and Design in Health Care by Dr, Nancy Borkowski and turn in a 2-page summary about your understanding of Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions theory (20 points)

2. **While in Sofia:**
   - Itinerary of travels and excursions – to be determined
   - Journal entry #1 – Takeaways from first week (3 single-spaced pages) – (15 points)
     Due on April 13, 2018
   - Journal entry #2 – Takeaways from second week (3 single-spaced pages) – (15 points)
     Due on April 20, 2018
3. **Upon return:**

- Final project – A ten-page paper (APA or MLA formatted) that adheres to template to be provided during the trip. Due on April 27, 2018 (10 points)
- Final presentation – A 10-15 minute presentation to be given to faculty at UAB’s Center for Teaching and Learning on or about April 27, 2018 (20 points)

**Attendance:**

Students are required to attend all scheduled sessions and events, including presentations, lectures and field trips. Engaging actively in discussions will also count as class participation. Points will be deducted for arriving late or leaving early from scheduled meetings. Attendance and participation counts as 10% of your final grade.

**Grading Scale:**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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**Academic Misconduct Policy:**

SHP expects students to maintain an acceptable quality of academic performance and to exhibit appropriate conduct. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner similar to accepted standards for practicing health care professionals.

Academic misconduct may include, but is not necessarily limited to, acts such as plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation, fabrication or giving or receiving unauthorized aid in tests, examinations, or other assigned work, and will be subject to disciplinary action. Any act of dishonesty in academic work constitutes academic misconduct.

Academic misconduct will result in a grade of zero on the assignment/exam and may result in disciplinary action. A student who feels he or she has been unfairly disciplined should contact the program director or department chair to request a review of the disciplinary decision. A more detailed description of the Grievance Procedures for Violations of Academic Standards is available from the Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs.

**Non-academic Misconduct Policy:**

The University is a community of scholars and learners; therefore, all participants are expected to maintain conduct which (1) facilitates the institution's pursuit of its educational objectives, (2) exhibits a regard for the rights of other members of the academic community, and (3) provides safety to property and persons. Through appropriate due process procedures, disciplinary action will be taken in response to conduct that violates these principles. A more detailed description of non-academic misconduct can be found in the UAB student handbook, **Direction.** It is the student's responsibility to be fully aware of the policies and procedures.
described in this document, which may be obtained from the SHP Office of the Recruitment, Retention, and Success (SHP Building, Room 230).

Several UAB-wide policies apply to students. The following policies or policy summaries are included on the UAB Policies page of the graduate catalog. Students are expected to comply with the UAB Student Polices located with One Stop.

Disability Support Services:
UAB is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and you require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for information on accommodations, registration and required procedures. Requests for reasonable accommodations involve an interactive process and consists of a collaborative effort among the student, DSS, faculty and staff.

To Register for Disability Support Services - Contact DSS at (205) 934-4205 (voice) or (205) 934-4248 (TDD). You must present documentation verifying your disability status and the need for accommodations. After DSS receives your completed documentation, you will meet individually with a member of the DSS staff to discuss your accommodations. It is best to register with DSS when you apply to UAB, as it may take 2-3 weeks to review your request and complete the process. For more information about Disability Support Services or to make an appointment, please feel free to contact the office directly: 9th Avenue Office Building / 1701 9th Avenue South / Birmingham, AL 35294 (email: dss@uab.edu), or visit their website for more information.

If you are registered with Disability Support Services, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the course instructor to discuss the accommodations that may be necessary in this course. Students with disabilities must be registered with DSS and provide an accommodation request letter before receiving academic adjustments. Reasonable and timely notification of accommodations for the course is encouraged and provided to the course instructor so that the accommodations can be arranged. Additional information about the process is available on the UAB website.

Title IX:
The University of Alabama at Birmingham is committed to providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of Sexual discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report the incident. UAB provides several avenues for reporting. For more information about Title IX, policy, reporting, protections, resources and supports, please visit UAB’s Title IX Policy and UAB’s Equal Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy.

Note: The dates and planned events described in this syllabus are subject to change in order to accommodate instructional needs, and students will be notified of such changes in advance.