This course is designed to introduce students to social work practices around the world. It combines a series of lectures, case studies, workshops, and activities examining the inner workings of culturally dynamic communities in Africa, Central America, South Asia, the Caribbean and the city of Newark. In doing so, students have the opportunity to examine a select collective of grassroots, nonprofit and public organizations committed to addressing issues of sustainable living, K-12 education, health and wellness, and urban development within their communities. Each entity introduces students to social work through different philosophies. Thus, social work as a global idea can be seen through local practices of philanthropy, indigenous leadership, gendered norms, and spirituality. Through innovation and capacity building, these philosophies of practice aim to better the quality of life within their communities. While understanding these practices, students will simultaneously examine the ethos and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in action. In doing so, this uniquely designed course prepares students to explore, cultivate and lead community engaged social change.

OPEN TO ALL MAJORS!