

The seminar abroad program *Nepal: Community, Technology and Sustainability* is comprised of two courses. CRD 153A meets Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm at UCDavis during Fall Quarter 2019. CRD 198/298 is an in-country field research course, December 16,2019-January 2, 2020.



Fall Quarter CRD 153A: International Community Development (Nepal) – 4 credits (Letter-Graded)

The Fall seminar is intended to prepare students who will be participating in the Seminar Abroad through the following goals.

- Provide an orientation to the historical, cultural, political, economic, and environmental dimensions of Nepal.
- Build students' capacities for inter-disciplinary, inter-cultural, and international learning.
- Develop a framework for the collaborative action research projects that will form the core of the Seminar Abroad activities.
- Introduce (via video link) students to their Nepalese university student counterparts with whom they will be studying during the in-country portion of the course.

The Fall seminar format will include interactive lectures, discussions of course readings, training in inter-cultural skills, small group activities, guest lectures and several video-link discussions with Nepalese university students.

The assignments will include four reflection papers (1-2 pages each) and a final paper reflecting project-focused preparatory research (5 pages).

Week 1: Introductions/Team Building

Syllabus overview. Student research interests and skills inventory. Key travel information: flights, visas, medical, assessment of special support needs. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Cultural humility and Orientalism readings.

Week 2: Cultural Humility and Village Project Team formation

Reading discussion (cultural humility, Orientalism/Activity, overview of polite behavior in Nepal). Village project team formation/orientation. Nepali phrases of the week.

Village Action Research Projects assignments will be made based on participant skills and interests. Example project options under consideration based on local interests include: (1) mapping social and physical dimensions of the local irrigation system to inform repair and further development, (2) introducing a new small-holder, gender-sensitive chicken coop design for local modification, production and use, (3) conducting market research for a women's incense production business, (4) supporting a new local museum built by the village mothers group by facilitating an overall design process, designing/building displays using local materials, and developing content through engaging local high school students in collecting oral histories.

Homework: History and cultural geography reading selections. Reflection Paper #1.

Week 3: Nepal Geography and Demography

Open Street Map /Mapping Nepal introduction (with Dr. Nama Budhathoki), Mapping Machhapuchhre village activity, Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Nepalese political history reading selection and project-related data inventory (identify what we need to know/what data are readily accessible).

Week 4: Nepal's Current Political System

Conversation with Mr. Pradip Pariyar (Nepal Policy Center founder) via Skype. Discussion about how local/national politics and policy intersect with our project work. eKantipur/Himalayan Times app introduction (to facilitate reading of key Nepalese English language daily newspapers online). Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Research on partner Nepalese universities via internet and skype connection with Nepali student project team members. Learn about project-relevant research that Nepali team-members have identified, as well as your Nepali team members' interests and skills. Reflection Paper #2.

Week 5: Nepal's Education System

Overview of Nepalese primary, secondary and higher education systems, student report-backs on their homework findings. Meet with UCD Nepalese university students and Davis area Nepali residents to learn about their educational experiences in Nepal and what led them (or their families) to migrate. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Guided online organizational research on key INGOs/government aid entities, Nepalese NGOs and UCD faculty working in Nepal in areas related to student projects.

Week 6: Environment and Health

Examine the intersection of health, the natural environment and the built environment, considering issues such as deforestation, air pollution, water pollution and climate change. Team sharing of homework findings, identification of key campus resources to meet and questions to ask them re: project planning. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Readings on dilemmas of development. Outreach to key campus resources. Reflection Paper #3

Week 7: The Dilemmas of Development Assistance and Doing Research in Nepal

Discussion of readings with campus-based researchers who have worked in Nepal, as well as Nepalese researchers based at UC Davis. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework assignment: Develop a proposed Day 1 stakeholder assessment/engagement project activity in Machhapuchhre village.

Week 8: Doing Research in Nepal— Work Session... Hitting the Ground Running in Machhapuchhre Village

Project team group work to begin drafting preliminary action plan for village timeframe and get class/faculty feedback. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Review online websites, social media and readings related to Nepali youth civic engagement that is relevant to projects. Share preliminary action plan draft with Nepali team members and incorporate their input, identify areas you could each develop further individually based on individuals' expertise/interests.

Week 9: Nepalese Youth Issues and Youth Civic Engagement

Association of Youth Organizations of Nepal (AYON) Lecture. Consultation on preliminary project plans and individual research activity, consideration of local project youth engagement strategies. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Pursue and write up project-related individual research (5pp. paper) and share progress with Nepali teammates.

Week 10: Student Topically-focused Presentations

Present individual student research in relationship to team preliminary project plans. Nepali phrases of the week.

Homework: Compile project-relevant resource materials that you'd like to bring to Nepal for your team. Compile a photo album to share in Nepal. Reflection Paper #4.

Finals Week: Final Travel Preparation

Review travel plans, meet up plans, packing tips, etc. Nepali phrases of the week

Homework: Pack!

Sample readings.

- Campbell, J. Gabriel, Ramesh M. Shrestha, and Linda Stone. 1979. The use and misuse of social science research in Nepal. Research Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University.
- Gurung, Harka. 2004 Mountain reflections: pattern and development. Kathmandu: Nepal. Mandala Publications
- Jha, Prashant. 2014. Battles of the New Republic: A Contemporary History of Nepal. Hurst Press.
- Justice, Judith. 1989 Policies, plans, and people: Foreign aid and health development in Nepal. University of California Press.

- Liechty, M. 2010. Out Here in Kathmandu: Modernity on the Global Periphery. Kathmandu: Martin Chautary.
- Rademacher, Anne. 2011. Reigning the river: urban ecologies and political transformation in Kathmandu. Durham, UK: Duke University Press.
- Rimal, B. (2013). Urbanization and the Decline of Agricultural Land in Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City, Nepal. Journal of Agricultural Science; Vol. 5, No. 1; 2013, 54-65.



Fall Quarter CRD 198/298: Field Research in Nepal: Community, Technology and Sustainability (2 Credits: P/NP)

CRD 198/298 will provide students with an intensive immersion experience in Nepal’s dynamic historical, cultural, political, and environmental fabric. The program focuses on the rapid processes of social change in Nepal, with special attention to the role of information communications technology (ICT) in this change. Students from the many disciplines and programs at UC Davis will work in interdisciplinary project teams in mutual learning partnerships with Nepalese university student counterparts.

Students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. Gain an appreciation of the complex historical, cultural, political, and environmental dimensions of Nepal
2. Develop their interdisciplinary field research skills
3. Build capacity for international collaborative work through developing mutual learning partnerships with Nepalese university students and young professionals.

The course will include the following instructional modes.

1. Seminars with guest lectures from local experts on the key themes of the course
2. Guided excursions to important historical and cultural sites in Kathmandu and Pokhara
3. 10-day intensive immersion village-based action research projects
4. Presentation of project outcomes and lessons learned to both village stakeholders and Kathmandu Valley-based development researchers, policy-makers and advocates.

Applied research projects will provide for unique opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and mutual-learning between US and Nepalese students. Projects will reflect local village priorities in areas such as: water resources, transportation, community economic development, sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition, public health, education, and cultural transformation.

Course Overview - SAMPLE schedule from 2018 program

Dec 18 arrive in Nepal

Dec 19-21: Orientation activities in Kathmandu Valley

12/19

- Morning: US/Nepali Team Orientation/ Team-building
- Afternoon/evening: Patan walking tour and dinner (with local expert Anil Chitrakar)

12/20: Nepal overview lectures

- Morning: Project Team building
- Lecture/Discussion (Nepali Local Politics and Policy as Contexts for Development, Hari Sharma)
- Afternoon: Field trip (Bouddahanath the world's largest Buddhist shrine), free time
- Late Afternoon/Evening: Panel lecture/Discussion (Doing Development in Nepal: What Works?) and dinner with speakers (Kathmandu and Tribhuvan University faculty)

12/21: Nepal overview lectures

- Morning/Afternoon: Conference attendance (Social Inclusion in Nepal)
- Late afternoon/evening: Free time, packing

December 22-January 1 Machhapuchhre Village Development Area & Pokhara

12/22 Travel to Pokhara & Machhapuchhre VDC

- Afternoon/evening: village tour, local leader introductions

12/23-12/27: Village stay in Machhapuchhre VDC

- Team Process/ Learning
- Trainings (e.g. mapping, community-engaged research methods, interdisciplinary research methods, facilitation)
- Project Work Time
- Reflection
- Village events/tours
- Free time (e.g. hiking, hot spring visit, sports with local youth, village visits)

12/28-12/29: Pokhara

- 12/28 AM: Tibetan Camp/Peace Pagoda, PM free time (Options: Lakeside, International Mountain Museum, visit Kathmandu Living Lab or Annapurna Conservation Area Project main office)
- 12/29am: Gurung Buddhist Monastery visit/presentation, pm return to Machhapuchhre Village and prepare for final 3 days of project work.

12/30-1/1: Machhapuchhre Village

- Finalize projects
- Village stakeholder presentations (to/with stakeholders) and feedback
- 1/1 (PM): Bus travel back to Kathmandu

January 2-4: Kathmandu-based Project Debriefing Activities

- 1/2: AM Finalize and practice project presentations: PM Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal (National Planning Commission representative presentation)
- 1/3 AM Series of panels and student presentations/ expert feedback, (Nepal Human Rights Commissioner). Celebration lunch! PM: free time. Optional evening departure
- Jan 4: Free time.

CRD 198/298 Assignments:

Group project report (total: 15-20 pages plus relevant tables/ figures/ photos) Documentation and analysis of your team action research project in Machhapuchhre Village.

Individual paper (3-5 pages). In-depth reflection on one element of the action research project.

Final group presentations to village stakeholders and Kathmandu-based experts (15 minutes each)

