Study Center in Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course name: Directed Research/Field Study Practicum
Course number: ECOL 3003 TKKU
Programs offering course: Development and Globalization
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: Equivalent of at least 45 classroom hours
Term: Spring 2017

Course Description

This course supplements and runs in conjunction with the "Human Perspective on Development and the Environment" course. Students learn about various research and field study methods and are given any additional tools they need to succeed for project time.
Throughout the semester, a number of possible projects will have appeared through exchanges with communities and NGOs. A student/staff management team develops the most feasible projects.

Project possibilities are determined by:
1) Collaboration with communities and/or NGO networks while on community visits.
2) Pass-on projects from previous semesters.
3) Other ideas suggested by students. In such case, a collaborative consultation must be arranged for community input.

Note 1: All projects must be based in the Northeast.

At the end of the project time, each team will prepare a presentation (or event), a Pass-on, and an output with pictures that can be posted on various program outlets.

Common Ground: For many years, student groups published a volume of collected articles and photos at the end of the semester. It is not in any way a "yearbook" that a given group might put together for its own purposes. The publication, most recently under the name, *Common Ground,* was intended to be a vehicle for students to share what they had learned about communities and other issues with a "public"—however vaguely defined. Typically it showcases student work created during project time, but may also include quality pieces created earlier in the semester and even work from PH students. There will need to be two persons dedicated to bottomlining this publication and making sure it comes out beautifully. If for some reason *Common Ground* does not generate enough student interest, then final projects will constitute 70% of the final grade.

Public Forum: Typically, but not always, there is a public forum of some sort for students to present their final project work. In the Fall semester, this is often in the form of some sort of presentation for the Annual Human Right Festival that takes place on or around Dec. 10. In the Spring, it may take another form. Presentations at the public forum are part of the "Final Product" grade.

Learning Objectives

- To provide students with skills in assessing research and field study opportunities
- To give students the tools to design and implement feasible research and/or field study proposals
- To give students the tools required to assess progress and make appropriate research or field study proposal changes
- To give students a framework for envisioning their research or field study work in innovative, interactive, and participatory ways
- To ensure that student work is up to standard and in-line with the needs of their home institutions
- To encourage students to learn from past student groups and organize their work to pass-on to future groups

Course Prerequisites

The course, Human Perspective on Development and the Environment

Methods of Instruction

The methods of instruction vary, but generally will involve helping students plan, implement, and present their work.

Assessment and Final Grade

Final Product	50%
Common Ground contribution	20%
Final Presentation	10%
Lessons, Recommendations, Pass-on	10%
Participation	10%

Note 2: You are allowed one unexcused absence from this class. Any further absences may affect your overall grade.

Note 3: Assignments turned in late will be marked down 5% after the first day and 1% every day afterwards. In any case, no coursework will be accepted after 19 May.

Course Requirements

Students must attend a one-day session in the middle of project time to assess the progress of their research or field study and present about their project at the end project time. They must also contribute to the program publication, *Common Ground*.

A research plan should have the following components:
- Analysis of previous student work on the issue or with a similar medium
- Rationale for the plan
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Plan of Action
- Measure of Success
- Output
- Budget of expected costs

Teams will reconvene at mid-point through the course with staff, interns, and other students to check progress.

Weekly Schedule

Please see the schedule in the Semester Guide

Readings

Depends on topic of research.