

Nepal

Development and Social Change

Witness the challenges facing Nepal as it works to balance tradition and progress and negotiate economic, political, and social change during a very dynamic period in its history.

Coursework

Development and Social Change Seminar

ASIA 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The seminar examines historical and contemporary Nepal, and the social, political, cultural, environmental, and economic forces—both internal and global—that have shaped and continue to define the country. Lecturers are drawn from academic institutions such as Tribhuvan University and the Fulbright Commission, as well as from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as Ashoka and other international and local development agencies working in Nepal.

Seminar topics typically include:

Nepali Life and Culture

Caste, ethnicity, and nationhood; democracy and the monarchy; Nepal as a nation in transition; urban-rural divides; economic mobilities; Hindu and Buddhist foundations; gender and identity; trafficking; sacred landscapes; *janjati* people and the state; journalism and media; Nepal between the Asian giants.

Development Issues

Cultural ecology; parks and people, conservation and conflict; the economics and history of foreign aid; globalization and markets; social entrepreneurship; community forestry; water resource management; tourism and local resources; educational challenges; wildlife diversity and management; governance and regulatory frameworks; peace and justice discourses; refugee issues; the challenge to fatalism; rethinking poverty; social capital and civil society; postcolonialism and development.

Educational Excursions

Conditions permitting, students travel in small groups to various rural sites to explore local ethnic communities and to profile key development issues. The program visits many Kathmandu Valley UNESCO World Heritage monuments, such as Bhaktapur and Patan Durbar Square and Museum. As part of the

Field Study Seminar, students have interactions with INGOs, NGOs, and many government ministry offices. In most semesters, the program makes a field studies excursion to the middle hills regions and/or to the lowland *tarai* in Nepal.

Village Excursion

Conditions permitting, the village excursion involves several days of trekking in national parks to remote village locations in the Himalayas. Students live with rural families and often have opportunities to visit sites of development projects, such as micro-hydropower plants, and to participate in local agricultural work and/or religious ceremonies.

Intensive Language Study: Nepali

NEPA 1500 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

Emphasis on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Classes are taught two and one-half hours daily. Instructors include those who have received Peace Corps training in language instruction. They use a variety of interactive, communication-based language-teaching techniques.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in the Kathmandu Valley or, conditions permitting and with program approval,



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Kathmandu

Language Study Nepali

Homestay Kathmandu Valley, 6 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay 6 days

Other Accommodations Hostels or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

in other parts of Nepal. **Sample topic areas:** political processes in evolving democracies; conflict resolution and development; state formation and power dynamics; ecotourism and its effect on wildlife management; sacred geography; ethnobotany; herbal trade; community forestry; migration and population issues; ethnic politics; rural development and aid; indigenous crafts; women's health challenges.

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit www.sit.edu/NPR for details.