

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Marting Chaisuriya, M.Div

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give students hands on cross-cultural experience with community development work in the Mekong Region of South East Asia. Students will be exposed to international development and relief programs, have the opportunity to work in cross-cultural work environments, and to contribute meaningfully to their assigned program. Students will begin to assess their own ability to live and work in cross-cultural settings as well as be introduced to the challenges faced in the Millennium Development Goals.

### COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop and evaluate personal learning objective.
2. Have hands-on work experience in a productive cross-cultural work setting.
3. Gain a greater understanding of a different culture and its values.
4. Become familiar with various NGO activities and programs in the varied settings in the Mekong.
5. Honestly evaluate personal performance and adaptation in a cross-cultural setting.
6. Develop self-confidence and an understanding of experience-based education.
7. Become experienced in journaling and its value in recording personal thought and reflection.
8. Begin to process their role in poverty and choose how they will respond to taking ownership of world poverty.
9. Articulate their own thought processes and personal belief changes in their understanding of poverty and the role of development work.

### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

**Curriculum Vitae and Learning Objective** – Students should bring an updated CV/Resume with them for the practicum fair where student will learn about possible practicum placement opportunities for which they can apply. Students will apply for their practicum placement opportunities of choice. Students will also include a well thought out learning objective for the practicum they apply for.

**Journaling** – Students will be expected to make journal entries a minimum of three times weekly. The entries should include not just circumstances but thoughts and reflections of personal growth and development. Students should also be including personal evaluation of their progress in accomplishing their own learning objective.

**Supervisor Field Evaluation** – Students will be given blank evaluation forms for their field supervisors to complete. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that these forms are completed by their field supervisor and returned to the Regional Director of Academic Programs.

## INCL 319: CROSS-CULTURAL FIELD PRACTICUM (3-9)

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**Summary Project** – This project is the culmination of the course and will require each student to develop a multimedia presentation or write a publishable magazine article. These projects are a tool to encourage reflection on part of their practicum experience. It is advisable to consider only one topic from their practicum; the entire practicum would be too general. Ideas may include one of the following topics or other topics approved by the Go ED. Regional Director. The list of pre-approved topics includes the following:

1. Choose the Millennium Development Goal your practicum assignment most closely addresses and explain how the development program you worked with contributed toward accomplishing this goal. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
2. Choose the Millennium Development Goal that you believe is the highest priority for your practicum community and describe how you might begin to address these needs or what programs you believe will most closely fill these needs. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
3. Identify what you believe to be the greatest needs in this community and how you believe these needs might best be addressed.
4. Reflect upon how your view or perception of poverty changed as a result of this experience.
5. Evaluate your ability to deal with cross-cultural adjustments and your effectiveness in living and working within a culture different than your own.

### COURSE EVALUATION:

Curriculum Vita and Learning Objective	5 pts
Journal Entries	15 pts
Supervisor Field Evaluation	40 pts
Project	40 pts
<b>Total Point Value</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

### GRADING SCALE:

95-100 A	85-88 B	75-78 C	65-68 D
92-94 A-	82-84 B-	72-74 C-	62-64 D-
89 -91 B+	79-81 C+	69-71 D+	0-61 F

### COURSE POLICIES:

Students are expected to exhibit professional and respectful conduct throughout their entire practicum experience. This should include courteous attitudes towards others, respecting authority, following instructions, being reliable in task completion and attendance, as well as showing creativity and innovation in the practicum setting.

Students will show cultural sensitivity in both the community and the practicum environment.

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Students are required to show up promptly at assigned times for all appointments and assignments.

Dress appropriately as determined by practicum supervisor(s).

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Students will conduct themselves consistently with the GO ED. Lifestyle Agreement which each student has signed.

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Students shall practice academic honesty. All academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism is prohibited, including, for example:

- giving or receiving aid during a quiz or examination;
- turning in written work prepared partially or wholly by another;
- presenting another's ideas or work as your own without proper citation;
- failure to cite sources used in a research paper or oral presentation.

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If you are uncertain about how to comply with academic integrity standards, including how to avoid plagiarism, please ask.

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Students are expected to produce written work that is focused, well developed, organized, and relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Papers that do not meet this standard will be returned to the student for revision within a reasonable time.

B

At a minimum, the paper shall have:

- a clear thesis and maintain a focus;
- paragraphs that are well developed with topic sentences and adequate support;
- smooth transitions and flow of ideas;
- correct grammar and academic style;
- proper documentation of borrowed ideas using MLA (or other recognized) citation format.

Papers should be written with a logical flow, using headings and subheadings to organize your thoughts and the reader's attention. Additional criteria for papers will be discussed in class.

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All assignments are due on time. Late assignments will be penalized. Permission for extensions must be requested in advance of the due date, and the assignment is still subject to grade reduction. Assignments turned in late without a request for extension will not be graded.

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### COURSE PLACEMENT PROCESS:

The practicum involves many people; it is, therefore, necessary for each student to carry out the following steps to insure proper evaluation and grade reporting:

**Prior to departure** -- Complete and submit the practicum interest form by the indicated deadline. Write or refine C.V./Resume prior to leaving for Thailand, this will facilitate an easier practicum application process.

### Upon arrival in the field:

1. Attend practicum fair for participating practicum sites in the Mekong. Each country will present projects and programs taking place within the country and also specific practicum placement opportunities.
2. Send applications including CV and learning objective for the three most desired practicum placement opportunities to the GO ED. Regional Director. Specific care should be taken in developing the learning objective and its measurability. This will account for 5% of the practicum grade.
3. Students will be notified of their practicum assignments. The GO ED. Regional Director will make contact with the student and the student may begin to become familiar with the details of the practicum.
4. On-sight for practicum. Track all field hours on the time sheet including all training sessions, time with staff, travel and time learning about your community. Write tri-weekly journal entries along with evaluations to be completed and signed by immediate supervisors. Journal entries will account for 15% of the grade and field evaluations account for 40%.
5. Secure your signed field evaluation form from your field supervisor before leaving your practicum site and give it to the GO ED. Regional Director at your debriefing. Begin work on your summary project and participate in group debriefing sessions.
6. Complete and submit your summary project to the GO ED. Regional Director.

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