Course Descriptions
Master of Arts in International Community Development

PRACTICUM I: PROJECT MANAGEMENT
This course provides an introduction to the paradigm of Project Management. Students will learn principles of project management through work with actual organizations. Student will acquire skills for the initiation, planning, and presentation of projects designs. In addition, the goals of this initial practicum are to establish good relational dynamics for the cohort community, become familiar with MLA style requirements, consider questions of personal calling and vocational aspirations, and work towards the integration of learning from other course in the semester.

CULTURE STUDIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT
In a globalizing world, being able to understand and negotiate the challenges of cultural diversity is more important than ever. This course will consider issues of culture from a general perspective, and will also look at a number of case studies in which practical issues illustrate and problematize the theories we look at. Most importantly, we want to consider the sorts of intercultural challenges that are faced by those working in the helping professions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
This course explores the broad practice of community development, and the various ways the field is defined and expressed in both global and local contexts. Through background readings, reflections, online discussions, and group exercises, class members will study both the dominant and competing paradigms to development and poverty alleviation, the shift in these paradigms over time, and recurrent themes of social change.

PRACTICUM II: FUNDING, GRANT WRITING, AND VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT
A study in strategies for sustainable resource development for non-profits and businesses. Students will explore strategies for resource development for non-profit organizations, and will apply their skills in organizational contexts. Topics include: grant writing techniques, donor-centered fundraising, fundraising management, giving campaigns, the use of technology, and volunteer management.

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
A comprehensive overview of research methods in the social sciences, and their capacity to improve the lives of individuals and communities. The course focuses primarily on the design and implementation of multiple forms of qualitative studies. Special emphasis is placed on ethnography and action research as core ICD methods that are utilized in other program courses and thesis project field research. Students will also learn to read and interpret quantitative research, to critically evaluate research write-ups, and to utilize quantitative data to address social needs.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Issues of justice both between humans, and also between humans and the world of Creation, are considered in this course. Students will examine in-depth the historical roots and current manifestations of social and environmental injustices, made visible in issues such as economic inequality, globalization, labor and fair trade, human trafficking, indigenous rights, toxins, consumption and waste, environmental racism, and gender inequality. Students examine the case for Christianity as an Earth-honoring and justice-seeking religion, and explore Christian traditions’ contributions to contemporary work for social justice, fairness and equality around the world.

Approved February 2015 (and prior)
PRACTICUM III: PROGRAM EVALUATION
In this course, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of outcomes-based evaluation and will become familiar with the necessary tools to design and conduct program evaluations. This is a hands-on course that requires students to actually evaluate real programs in their local contexts. It is intended to provide students with practical knowledge that can be used to improve programs and organizations, so that they can make a more meaningful difference in people’s lives and communities.

SPIRITUALITY, CULTURE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Students are encouraged to explore personal, spiritual, and theological foundations for being involved in a helping profession. The course focuses on issues of culture and justice as they apply to socio-cultural contexts and physical environments, and fosters the development of critical perspective that thinks beyond the surface of challenging social/environmental issues.

GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT
This is a course that aims to position students in the larger context of global systems – economic, cultural, and geopolitical. The primary objective is to increase understanding of the interdependent world in which we live – and the pervasive, unstoppable movement of globalization that characterizes it. The course also seeks to equip students with some of the necessary cultural knowledge and empathy required to operate in the increasingly dominant “monoculture,” and at the same time to navigate (and value) multicultural distinctiveness.

PRACTICUM IV: FIELDWORK AND THESIS PROJECT
This course provides the opportunity for individualized student fieldwork, the beginning of the thesis process, and the integration of lessons learned from fieldwork into the thesis project. In addition, the goals of this practicum are to maintain good relational dynamics for the cohort community, and to work towards the integration of learning from other courses in the semester.

CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND DEVELOPMENT
Prevention and advocacy for children at risk and the creation of healthy environments and communities for children are the two main foci of this course.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
This course is intended to be an introduction to practices and principles of social entrepreneurship. The course focuses in great part on innovative approaches to addressing social needs, and explores contemporary case studies. Topical themes include: Economic development through social enterprise; policy, politics, and free market forces; ethics and social responsibility; and globalization and the new economy. Special attention will be given to re-discovering our imaginative, inventive capacities, and cultivating entrepreneurial qualities.

PRACTICUM V: THESIS PROJECT
This course supports the student in completing the thesis project. At the end of the course, students will present and defend their thesis work before an audience of their peers and professors. In addition, the student will be encouraged to consider questions of personal calling and vocational aspirations, and to work towards the integration of learning from all courses in the semester.

DISASTER RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT
Students will examine the critical concepts, principles, and tools that are needed in order to effectively intervene in emergency relief and disaster situations, as well as the relationship between disaster relief and community development. Special attention is paid to the contextual elements of urbanization, migration, and refugees.

LEADERSHIP
Students in this course will learn about the specific challenges of leading and managing nonprofit organizations in a global context. Through consideration of both theory and case studies, students will gain greater insight into such issues as vision development, innovative fundraising and sustainable business practices, strategic planning, business ethics, and organizational culture.

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