Course Descriptions
Master of Arts in International Community Development

PRACTICUM I: PROJECT MANAGEMENT
This course provides an introduction to the paradigm of Project Management. Through hands-on project work with actual organizations, students will acquire skills to initiate, plan, and present a project. (Project execution takes place in Practicum II.) In addition, the goals of this initial practicum are to establish good relational dynamics for the cohort community, become familiar with APA style requirements, consider questions of personal calling and vocational aspirations, and work towards the integration of learning from other courses 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 that the field is defined and expressed in both global and local contexts. Through case studies, students will gain insight into the latest developments and creative approaches that characterize community development “success stories.”

PRACTICUM II: PROJECT MANAGEMENT
This course builds on concepts of Project Management learned in Practicum I. Through hands-on project work with actual organizations, students will acquire skills to execute and deliver a 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.

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS
This course provides a comprehensive overview of quantitative and qualitative research in the social sciences, with an emphasis on Social Action Research design and implementation. Its purpose is to impart an understanding of basic methodologies, to equip students to critically evaluate research write-ups, and to utilize data to address social needs.
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
This course considers issues of justice both between people, and between people and the rest of creation. Through this course a student will come to understand the “politics of transformation,” and take an in-depth look at core areas of injustice such as sexual slavery, economic inequality, political oppression, war and peace issues, aboriginal rights, and gender inequality. The course also considers the historical roots of and contemporary solutions for ecological problems, and the ways in which environmental issues impinge on the practices of community development.

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.

GLOBALIZATION
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.

SPIRITUALITY, CULTURE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
This course encourages students 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.

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
This course has two main foci: 1) Prevention and advocacy for children at risk, and 2) the creation of healthy environments and communities for children.

Approved January 2014
ICCD 6343 SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
This course explores and evaluates the practice of social entrepreneurship using entrepreneurial business to envision and enact social change. The course focuses in great part on alternative change models and contemporary case studies. Topical themes include: Economic development through social enterprise; policy, politics, and free market forces; ethics and social responsibility; and new opportunities and globalization.

PRACTICUM V: FIELDWORK AND THESIS
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.

FUNDING THE SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION
A study of strategies for resource development for non-profit organizations and businesses engaged in innovative and sustainable approaches, including social entrepreneurship. Topics include: donor-centered fundraising, fundraising management, giving campaigns, grant-writing techniques and use of technology.

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.