



CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course title:	Directed Research/Field Study Practicum
Course code:	ECOL 3003 TKKU
Programs offering course:	Development and Globalization
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

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 appear 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 need to prepare a presentation (or event) of their project, a project pass-on, and a summary of their projects, with some 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. 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 Rights Festival that takes place on or around December 10th. In the Spring, it may take another form. Presentations at the public forum are part of the “Final Product” grade.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- 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

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

1. Final Product	70%
2. Final Presentation	10%
3. Lessons, Recommendations, Pass-on	10%
4. Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Final Product

Research Proposal Form with the following components:

- Rationale for the plan
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Resources needed
- Measure of success
- Output

Project Check-in

Students must attend a one-day session in the middle of project time to assess the progress of their research or field study. Each group will be reporting the progress of their projects according to the following points:

- Summary of the project
- Changes to the project (if there is any)
- The progress of the project. What had been accomplished so far?
- Obstacles
- Plan in completing the project/help each group might need from the program in order to complete the project from either staff or peers or both.

Final Presentation

- A simple and concise 10-15 minute presentation with a discussion of no more than 10 minutes.
- The presentation should address or answer the following:
 - Did you reach your goal(s) successfully? How do you measure “success” in your group’s particular case?
 - What were the obstacles that made it difficult for your group to succeed and how did you overcome those obstacles?
 - What did your group discover?



- What was your method of discovering what you did and what does this tell you about Thailand and the Northeast at this point in time?
- What is there for you as students from the US to learn from all of this? What will you take home from your project?
- Prepare 1-3 questions for a discussion with attendees after your presentation. Questions should prompt an interesting conversation; (i.e. What are the greater implications for Isaan? For grassroots groups in Thailand? What does this mean for your group returning to the US? etc.).
- The presentation is a grade-bearing activity.

Lessons, Recommendations, Pass-on

Participation

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 the last day of class.

Attendance

Weekly Schedule

Week 15

Class 15.1 Final Project Determined

Class 15.2 Final Project Proposal Submission

Week 16

Class 16.1 Final Project Check-in

Week 17

Class 17.1 Completion of Final Project

Week 18

Class 18.1 Final Project Presentation

Class 18.2 Submission of all Final Project Outputs and Pass-on

Course Materials

Readings

Depends on topic of research.