
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICUM in Fall 2018 (CM5063)

Course Code	CM5063	Professor(s)	Tanya Elder
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	Grenelle
Class Schedule	: 01:00-01:30 in TBD-1	Office Hours	Monday 13:30 - 15:00
Credits	4	Email	telder@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	820

Course Description

The Practicum is comprised of three dimensions:

- Academic study and work in the field of Sustainable Development
- Practical field experience in working with an NGO
- Practice and production of Communications for Development

The practicum provides students with the opportunity to explore the environmental, ecological, social, economic and cultural dimensions of sustainability within a complex development context. Through multiple field visits and interaction with various NGOs, GSOs and development organizations and field units students will gain hands-on experience of Sustainable Development and Development Communications. The students will engage in multiple dimensions of sustainability by helping one of the partner organizations in the field assess, determine and meet their communication and communication policy needs.

Multiple themes, interrelated focuses. Students are encouraged, but not required, to select one or two main themes to engage with through academic work and concrete action in the field. We will concentrate on key theoretical and practical issues related to sustainable development and their local and global implications, with the participation of local and central government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots organizations, representatives of civil society and other local actors engaged in problem-solving, decision-making, policy development and concrete action. Some of the themes that we will explore are:

- Environmental and ecological sustainable development & Eco-systems management
- Health & Sanitation policy and practice
- Socially responsible business, Social entrepreneurship, Fair Trade, and Microcredit
- Education & Literacy
- Gender equality & Women's empowerment

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- Sexual orientation, sexual identity & discrimination
 - Cultural heritage preservation

Daily visits, talks and seminar series provided by the faculty and professionals from the field will allow the students to gain insight into some of the most pressing issues facing the world today. In order to develop an integral understanding of sustainability the course will organize modules on ecological, social and economic sustainability.

Communications/Multimedia projects. Students may work on their own or form teams of two or three. After assessing the NGO's communications needs, students will collaborate with the NGO and select what they think is the most adequate media for their topic and the targeted audience. Communications projects can range from: writing copy for the NGOs annual report; grant-writing; updating and restructuring webpages; writing an illustrated magazine article; developing or re-designing a website; writing and producing radio broadcasts; producing documentary and promotional videos for an NGO; developing a social media communications strategy for an NGO; working with new technologies, such as cellphones and other ICTs, etc... Under faculty supervision, practicum participants will begin gathering information, conducting interviews, writing concept notes and designing communication solutions.

Every stage of the media project should be documented. Technical assistance with 'media mentors' will be provided. The goal is to produce smart, lively, effective multimedia communications material dedicated to sustainable and sound development that will ultimately

Course Learning Outcomes

develop a concrete understanding of Sustainable Development and Development Communications within the unique cultural context of Auroville, Pondicherry and the state of Tamil Nadu.

gain an understanding of local Tamil Indian culture and the specific, local challenges of working in the field of development therein.

learn the basic methods and theories of intercultural communication and development communication and be able to apply them to the larger context of development and to other media/development communications projects.

learn about the challenges of sustainable food production, alternative types of energy production and consumption and waste management cycles

learn to understand how education, empowerment and development are interrelated in social sustainability.

learn how businesses can be run in a socially responsible manner and how other economic systems can coexist within the market economy or exist as an alternative to it.
learn to apply methods of participant observation and field note-taking and analysis.
learn to recognize and analyze interrelated processes of sustainable development: social, economic, ecological, cultural, political.
apply prior knowledge and coursework in civil society, public sphere, gender, race, postcolonial, and cultural theory, as well as history and economics to the phenomena mentioned above.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

Sustainable Development Practicum: Strategy, Action and Communication is an intensive, trans-curricular graduate field course offered in Auroville, in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, during the winter intersession (December 18, 2018 – January 18, 2019).

December 19 -31, 2018

Daily visits, talks and seminar series provided by the faculty and professionals from the field will allow the students to gain insight into some of the most pressing issues facing the world today. In order to develop an integral understanding of sustainability the course will organize modules on ecological, social and economic sustainability.

January 2 -16, 2019

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The primary assignment is to develop a complete **Sustainable Development PORTFOLIO**. Your portfolio should be a carefully assembled, professional quality report of all of your activities involving "sustainable development" and "communications for development" during the trip.

Target: the portfolio should be a collection of your work that you could present to a future employer and that best represents the depth and quality of the kind of fieldwork that you can conduct and produce.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the

department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Your completed Practicum **portfolio**, which will include the above **assignment and documents**, the **essay** and digital and/or print evidence of your **Media Project**, is due **Monday, February 18th by 17:00**.

Please combine all documents into one PDF file, save the PDF file under your name and send the portfolio by email to Professor Talcott charles.talcott@gmail.com

The portfolio must contain the following assignments:

1. A formal **field interview** focusing on development communications and sustainability, including edited extracts or sections from a transcript and a brief report or commentary on the interview. – **10%**
2. **Field journal** with **field notes**, covering at least **five (5)** dated entries. These should be written with an ethnographic/anthropological eye. **20%**
3. A minimum of **two blog entries** to our AUP Sustainable Development Practicum blog. **20%** (We will draw up a daily schedule, listing each day for which you will be responsible. Field journal participant-observer reports, interviews and journal entries can be blog posted. (See blog entry directions below)

<http://wordpress.com/> <http://aupindia.com/> Username: aupindia Password: aupindiagreen

4. **Development Communications/Multimedia project** (to be presented January 10th).

30% Including your **200-word Concept note** (written as though part of a grant application) explaining your communication project and its contribution to the NGO you are working with.

5. **Graduate students: Two reading responses** to the assigned essays, articles, and texts
6. **Graduate students: A final research essay** of **3000** words on Sustainable Development and/or the role of Communication in Development based on observations in the field and personal reflection. **20 %**

Your completed Practicum **portfolio**, which will include the above **assignment and documents**, the **essay** and digital and/or print evidence of your **Media Project**, is due **Monday, February 16th by 17:00**.

Please combine all documents into one PDF file, save the PDF file under your name and send the portfolio by email to Professor Elder telder@aup.edu or on Blackboard

Other
