

International Community Engagement and Study Trip: Working Toward a Violence-Free Society in Nepal SOC 3220C (Winter 2020) and SOC 3210 (Summer 2020)

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is inviting applications for an exciting opportunity to work with the Women's Foundation of Nepal. To participate, you must be enrolled in both SOC 3220C, which will be on campus in Winter 2020, and SOC 3210 which will involve a 4-week trip to Nepal in Spring 2020. Each course is worth 0.5 credits.

The Women's Foundation is a national organization with the resources and connections to provide an outstanding experiential learning opportunity for Carleton students. Their mission is to work toward a violence-free society by helping women and children in Nepal who are victims of violence, abuse and poverty. The organization has a powerful social

analysis to support its work, seeing social justice emerging from integrated social supports and economic independence. The Women's Foundation runs a shelter, a kindergarten, a school and a fair-trade cooperative in the Kathmandu area. They provide training and micro-credits for women in rural areas, legal assistance for poor children, and work in many other ways to empower women and children to shape their future (<https://www.womenepal.org/>).



SOC 3220C will take place on the Carleton campus in the Winter term. We will use a feminist analysis to build our understanding of the issues and the work being done by The Women's Foundation Nepal. We will undertake a campaign or event to raise the profile of the organization in Canada and to educate the Carleton community on the issues and the social justice work being done by the organization. Finally, students will collaborate with the instructor and the organization to finalize the project plan and course deliverables for the overseas course.

In SOCI 3210 (course code to be confirmed), we will travel to Nepal. The first several days will be spent at the guest house of a secure and beautiful monastery in Kathmandu. We will acclimatize to the new time zone and explore Nepalese society and culture through venturing out into the city and returning to this nurturing space. Over the next week, we will have education sessions about the work of the Women's Foundation of Nepal and the social conditions in the country as well as having the opportunity to tour and share in the work of the organization. A main deliverable of the course will be a video to engage others with the Foundation's efforts. We will build on research done in SOCI 3220C as we design, film and edit the video. We will take several trips outside Kathmandu to gain understanding of rural social conditions and learn about the culture of the country. The last two days will be spent in



Kathmandu integrating what we have learned and preparing to leave.

By the end of the course students will be able to describe social justice issues facing women in Nepal and social justice efforts currently underway to address these issues. You will understand and be able to describe the gaps that can exist between stereotypical understandings of a social issue and the lived realities of the people

experiencing those issues, especially in the international context. You will have increased skills in engaging productively in a team while contributing to a positive team experience. You will be able to design and conduct a small social action intervention in concert with others. You will also develop skills to communicate in an engaging and persuasive way with a non-academic audience and develop video production skills. Finally, you will use reflection to improve your capacities for teamwork and social advocacy.

A budget has been estimated for the trip which indicates costs per student in the range of \$3200, which includes air fare, room and board and costs to the organization. Tuition is not included in this estimate. Part of our winter work could include fundraising and a bursary may be available.

All undergraduate students in years 2 through 4 are welcome to apply to these courses. Sociology majors and Sociology BGrNS students will be given priority. Dr. Deborah Connors will be the instructor. Please contact her at deborah.connors@carleton.ca for more information and/or obtain the application form for this course.