

Problem-based Learning: Health & Environment in Urban Nepal (Analytical Approach to Problem Solving)

FALL 2017: ECON 395 (3 credits)

Taking the Classroom into the Field

Sustainable Development Action Lab

Instructor Professor Alok K. Bohara, Department of Economics

T,THR, 11:00-12:15PM, Room 1004 (Limited computer lab seating available)

Prerequisite: Stat 145 (Econ 300 and Econ 303 are not required. For registration and override, contact Dr. Bohara:
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**A Truly
Interdisciplinary
Class that
Welcomes
Problem Solving
Tools from
Natural Sciences,
Social Sciences,
and Humanities.**

A THREE-STEP RESEARCH AND LEARNING APPROACH

Analyze real-world problems using real data from the community

- *Data visualization*
- *Survey designs*
- *Statistical Methods*
- *GIS tools (if applicable)*

Identify potential solutions

- *Intervention programs*
- *Technological devices*
- *Public policy prescriptions*
- *Educational curriculum and/or advocacy*

Perform community service

- *Write small grants for fund raising*
- *Work with overseas collaborators to implement community service*
- *Work with student club at UNM*
- *Go on the Undergraduate Research and Learning Trip and/or study abroad and engage (optional)*

Expected Classroom Activities:

Reading relevant literature, real-world data analysis; & writing results.

Expected outcome: *mini research reports & final research poster.* (group collaboration expected and encouraged)

An Example

Target area: *Urban city of Siddharthanagar in Nepal*

Problems: *Air and waterborne diseases, Arsenic's Impact on women's health
Danda River's Riparian health and water quality.*

Solutions: *Long-term ecological monitoring programs
Scientific data generation,
Environmental and health education,
Urban bio-park refuge & other innovations to improve quality of life*

Optional Undergraduate Research Trip / study abroad to Nepal will be available in the Winter Break following this class: Lumbini Circle Study Abroad Program in Nepal (Econ 395: 1-3 credits)

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<http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/SustainableResearchLab/Econ451FALL2016.html>

Nepal Study Center, University of New Mexico