Problem-based Learning: Health & Environment in Urban Nepal
(Analytical Approach to Problem Solving)
FALL 2017: ECON 395/595 (3 credits)
Taking the Classroom into the Field

**Sustainable Development Action Lab**
**Nepal Study Center**
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: bohara@unm.edu)

**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)

Sustainable Development Action Lab
http://nepalstudycenter.unm.edu/SustainableResearchLab/Econ451FALL2016.html
Nepal Study Center, University of New Mexico