

IIT Mandi
Proposal for a New Course

Course Number	: HS553P
Course Name	: Field Study
Credits	: 0-0-8-4 (L-T-P-C) ¹
Prerequisites	: None
Intended for	: MA in Development Studies
Distribution	: Discipline Core for MA in Development Studies
Semester	: Summer session (between Semester II and Semester III)

1. Preamble:

One of the objectives of the M.A. in Development Studies program is to expose the students to real-world developmental challenges in different communities. This course is meant to address this objective by encouraging students to visit and stay in the field for an extended period of time. The motivation is as follows: The first task of a development practitioner is to 'diagnose' the problem on the ground, to understand the 'socio-economic nuances' of the problem and to have a thorough understanding of the 'agencies' who are already working on the ground. This course is meant to provide field emersion to M.A. students, who aspire to become development practitioners in the near future. In this course, students will have to go and stay with a rural/urban community for a duration of approximately 6-weeks between their 2nd and 3rd Semester. This course is expected to help students to learn how to diagnose the development challenges and get the praxis right.

2. Course Modules:

Module 1:

In the first week, before leaving for field-work, students will be asked to choose a place from a list of places. These places will be pre-identified after discussion with faculty advisors. Students may propose places from their side; however, in this situation, they need to justify the place of visit in discussion with their faculty advisor (place profiling, as discussed below, may help this justification). Furthermore, in the first week, before leaving for field-work, the students will be asked to do a socio/economic/cultural/geographical profiling of the place of visit. They need to discuss their profile with their faculty advisor before they are permitted to leave for the place of visit.

Module 2:

Students will stay at the field site during week 2-5/6. Around a 3-week period, students will be asked to send a write-up to their faculty advisor detailing their experience (based upon a diary entry) about their place of visit as well as certain unique problems in the place (they need to provide details about the problem as much as possible).

Module 3:

¹ A 4 credit lab course is equivalent to 8 lab hr/week during Feb-Jun or Aug-Dec semester (14 weeks under each semester). This adds up to 112 hours. Since students have to take up this Field Study Course during the Summer Term over a period of 4-6 weeks, weekly hours will be adjusted accordingly keeping the total to be 112 hrs.

Upon return from the field visit, during the final week, students will be asked to submit a field report and diary. Also, students will be asked to make a presentation on their experience and findings (they may also suggest possible solutions to the problems).

Pattern of evaluation:

The evaluation will be based on

1. The place profiling document
2. Diary entry
3. A final field study report (Week 3+Final)
4. Presentation after returning from their field stay.

3. Textbooks:

Scheyvens, R. (2014). *Development Fieldwork: A Practical Guide*. Sage Publishing. Palmerston North, New Zealand.

4. Reference:

Any relevant journal paper.

5. Similarity Content Declaration with Existing Courses: None

6. Justification for new course proposal if cumulative similarity content is > 30%: NA