MILA—Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad

MILA (Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad) provides students with the opportunity to participate in an on-going collaboration with international study site partners. These interdisciplinary courses are grounded in an established relationship with site institutions and collaborative partnerships that support faculty research and scholarship. Because of these established connections, students are able to create meaningful independent research and to contribute to their on-going studies. MILA courses meet on campus during the spring semester and then include a faculty-led short-term study abroad experience.

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Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh
Spring 2013

Muhlenberg College Study Abroad
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Few countries face the kind of severe environmental consequences attributed to climate change than Bangladesh. With most of its nearly 150 million people living on the vast delta of the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Meghna rivers, Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to flooding from waterways swollen by rain, increased levels of snowmelt from the Himalayas, deforestation, and increased sea water infiltration. In addition to introducing students to the science and politics of climate change, Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh (SUS 355) also examines the specific environmental, economic and social challenges confronting Bangladesh’s political development since its independence. The course also investigates the environmental and social consequences of state-sponsored development strategies, especially recent market-based “neo-liberal” policies; and evaluates new “sustainable development” strategies that are emerging to meet the challenges posed by climate change. Particular attention will be given to national and international policy responses to climate change in Bangladesh and how such policies affect livelihoods in the country.

Course also provides credit in Sustainability Studies.

ACTIVITIES IN BANGLADESH
May 21 — June 7, 2013 (Dates TBD)

- Lectures on Bangladesh by international and local experts at Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies
- 4 day boat trip to the coastal belt areas and the Sundarbans.
- Trip to the north of Bangladesh in drought-prone areas and the Chars Livelihood Project
- Trips to archeological sites in and around Dhaka including Ahsan Manzil, Old Dhaka, Sonargaon, Saver Monument, Pottery Village in Manikgonj.
- Meetings with key people from leading universities, institutions and civil society groups such as Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, PROSHIKA, BRAC, Dhaka Community Hospital, Action Aid, North South University, Independent University of Bangladesh, DFID (UK) funded Char Livelihood Project.
- Cultural evening and dinner with Bangladeshi university students.

2013 MILA BANGLADESH IMPORTANT DEADLINES:
November 2012
Course Registration (SUS 355)
$400 Deposit Due
January - May 2013
Course Taught on Campus
Evenings 7:00-9:00 PM
January - TBD .... Airfare Due
Bangladesh Trip Date TBD
Tentative Costs $3,200—3,500