The Community Development Course: "Fighting with The Poor"

A-Certificate

ONE WORLD UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY DEVELOMENT – FIGHTING WITH THE POOR

One World University's "Community Development – Fighting with the Poor" course broadens normally rather specialized studies by integrating them into one curriculum. It promotes a dialectic and realistic attitude, centering the ability of the student on transformational activities and combining theoretical and practical knowledge with action. The course is developed within the framework of realizing the existence of the Poor, understanding the basis of their plight, and raising the personal willingness, ability and readiness to fight the good fight side by side with them.

The approach to the OWU course "Community Development – Fighting with the Poor" is new and ground breaking in that it focuses directly on training the students in the theories and practices of specific transformational processes in society. It points at and fully accepts, as the plight of the educated person in any society, the burden of transforming such society on micro and macro levels. Through this course, the students establish a broad foundation for understanding and acting in the world of today and tomorrow.

COMPETENCIES

The course aims to train development agents who promote poverty elimination programs, and who are duly competent to negotiate, advise or lead transformational processes and development projects of many kinds. It prepares students to become professionals capable of understanding and acting for the development of a community as a whole.

The course guarantees the acquisition of classic general knowledge and the field experience that a humanist of the 21st Century cannot live without. The curriculum fits within the paradigm of a constantly changing modern world.

By receiving an A-CERTIFICATE in "Community Development – Fighting with the Poor" from One World University, students will be able to:

1) Understand the dilemmas of the poor person and of their life as a continuous struggle for survival.
2) Initiate transformational process applying scientific research methodologies such as Participatory Action Research.
3) Train and educate communities and people to act and practice solidarity.
4) Apply innovative and creative solutions based on the critical analysis of concrete circumstances surrounding communities in need.

5) Mobilize the person or community in a situation of poverty to leave such condition, taking the person or community as active subjects in the transformation of the socio-economic environment where they live.
6) Advise organizations, communities and individuals who struggle with conditions of poverty or work towards poverty alleviation strategies.
7) Lead community development projects.

CURRICULUM

Subject Area I: Community Development Science and Action
Subject Area II: Social Skills and Personal Development
Subject Area III: Professional Skills Training
Subject Area IV: Natural Science and Technology
Subject Area V: Social Science and Humanities

COURSEWORK

Subject Area I: Community Development Science and Action (560 hours – 22.4 credits)

The curriculum requires that students acquire knowledge and understanding of demographics, economics and the social reality of developing countries. The course will help them develop competence in planning poverty alleviation actions with groups or communities in poverty.

This subject area introduces the students to poverty alleviation schemes, international agreements such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and current and future development trends. The subject area requires the students to conduct an in-depth study of the situation of poverty in a developing country.

The students will be introduced to participatory action research and how to use this as a tool for conducting transformational processes, evaluating progress and empowering communities and individuals in a condition of poverty.

Subject Area II: Social Skills and Personal Development (200 hours – 8 credits)

Subject Area II introduces the students to research methodologies that equip them with planning, communication and collaborative skills and measuring technics to use while implementing development projects.

Through these courses the students will develop leadership skills and reasoning skills. These skills include the ability to analyze and formulate cogent arguments along with communicating clearly by both oral and nonverbal means.

The students will explore the visions of the world in the next ten to fifty years, the possibilities and challenges that the world will face as well as particular future of the individual student and of his/her profession.

Subject Area III: Professional Skills Training (120 hours – 4.8 credits)

These courses are designed to teach the students how to identify the challenges that a poor person or community faces, how to design the transformational process to overcome them and how to implement them in order to test their validity, functionality and impact. The courses are multidisciplinary and present to the students the challenges of studying the world and its conditions from the perspectives of the sciences, social sciences and humanities.

The objective is to help the student acquire theoretical and practical skills in a wide range of areas relevant to the profession. These skills include how to build and operate a rope pomp; what is a village and how to understand its organizational structure; latrines and why to build them; planning, its importance and its mechanisms; social relations as a tool for development; cooperation and teamwork; democracy and human rights; fundraising and budgeting.

Subject Area IV: Natural Science and Technology (280 hours – 11.2 credits)

This subject area introduces the students to the methods and logic of science, and helps them understand the importance of science to the development of civilization and to the contemporary world. Students study the direct and indirect consequences of industrialized agriculture, environmental degradation and climate change in particular. Students will also learn about preservation of the environment in rural and pre-urban areas.

A variety of courses in this subject will focus on health related topics such as prevention of diseases, malnutrition and hunger, epidemics and health crisis, fitness, first aid, and more.

Subject Area V: Social Science and Humanities (360 hours – 14.4 credits)

This subject area will teach the students overall world history, the conditions and problems of the contemporary world, and the causes and consequences that shaped the world of today. The courses explore issues of globalization, world economy, global inequality and other big issues facing humankind.

As part of the humanities courses, the students will train English language skills to be able to communicate effectively when giving presentations, practicing public speaking, teaching, writing reports, etc.

Furthermore, students will gain familiarity with the discipline and craft of artists and performers and the process of creating and presenting their work. The courses will explore the role of art, music, theatre, and other artistic modes in the formation and expression of culture and encourage respect for diverse cultures and their work.

OVERVIEW OF SUBJECT HOURS AND CREDITS

No.	Module	Hours		Credits
Subject Area I: Community Development Science and Action				
1	The Poor	200		8
2	The Group of Poor	360		14.4
	Total - Community Development Science and Action		**560**	
Subject Area II: Social Skills and Personal Development				
3	Leadership Intelligence	120		4.8
4	My Future	80		3.2
	Total - Social Skills and Personal Development		**200**	
Subject Area III: Professional Skills Training				
5	Small Subjects	120		4.8
	Total - Professional Skills Training		**120**	
Subject Area IV: Natural Science and Technology				
6	Natural and Environmental Science	160		6.4
7	Health	120		4.8
	Total - Natural Science and Technology		**280**	
Subject Area V: Social Science and Humanities				
8	English	200		8
9	The Contemporary World	80		3.2
10	Expressive Arts	80		3.2
	Total - Social Science and Humanities		**360**	
TOTAL for the A-Certificate		**1,520**		**60.8**

An A-Certificate corresponds to an accumulation of a minimum of 60.8 academic credits corresponding to 1,520 hours. One credit corresponds to 25 hours of study.

This is in accordance with Article 16 of the decree of the Council of Ministers of Mozambique no. 32/2010 of August 30, 2010 regarding the national system for accumulation and transfer of credits.

ABOUT ONE WORLD UNIVERSITY

One World University (OWU) is a private research university located in Mozambique. OWU was founded in 1998 by the organization Humana People to People, known as ADPP for its name in Portuguese. In 2005, OWU was approved by the Minister of Education in Mozambique as a private institution for higher learning. OWU was accredited to provide academic courses from bachelor's to master's level under the legal name Instituto Superior de Educaçao e Tecnologia, abbreviated ISET/OWU.

OWU started with its Faculdade de Pedagogia (School of Pedagogy), created with the objective of training professionals to teach at the Teacher Training Colleges around the country and the continent at large. In 2008, the second Faculdade was founded, this time offering a unique degree on "Community Development – Fighting Shoulder to Shoulder with the Poor." Humana People to People in Mozambique created this course inspired by Armando Emílio Guebuza, then President of Mozambique, who asked ADPP to create a course to support the fight to end poverty.

In 2011, OWU was approved to offer its courses as a distant learning institution, opening its doors to many more people in the African continent and beyond. Today, OWU has more than 500 distant learning students from Africa, America and Europe.