

D-Lab

Fall 2003

Course Outline

Class Meetings

Class	MW 3 - 4:30	2-142
Recitations	F 3 - 4:30	2-142
		2-143
		2-146

Course Description

This seminar is the first in a year-long series of courses. It is part of the Curricular Initiative for Development Design and is sponsored by the Edgerton Center and the Haitian Students' Alliance, Setu and the Brazilian Students Association. The class provides a basic background in international development and appropriate technology through guest speakers, case studies and hands-on exercises. As part of the class, students will choose a country to focus on (Haiti, India, or Brazil) and will work with community partners in those countries to identify development projects and formulate project specifications. Students will attend country-specific recitations to learn basic language skills, history and culture. Students will have the opportunity to participate in an IAP fieldtrip to Haiti, India or Brazil and continue their work in a spring term design seminar.

Course Goals

- Gain awareness of third world communities and the technical challenges they face
- Learn about appropriate technologies for developing communities, their impact, and how they can be conceived, designed and implemented
- Understand the role MIT can play in helping and advancing developing communities throughout the world
- Learn the hands-on skills required to implement selected development projects
- Gain exposure to the culture and history of Haiti, India and Brazil; as well as their economic and developmental state
- Learn Haitian Kreyol, Portuguese and/or Hindi

- Work with community organizations to prepare field projects for the IAP fieldtrips to Haiti, India and Brazil.

Teaching Staff

Instructor	Amy Smith	mmadinot@mit.edu	4-406
Haiti, Head TA	Jamy Drouillard	drouilla@mit.edu	
India, Head TA	Andy Rajagopal	andyraj@mit.edu	
Brazil, Head TA	Gustavo Santos	gsantos@mit.edu	

Required Text

Field Guide to Appropriate Technology, Hazeltine and Bull. In addition there are several articles and readings from other sources that will be available in binders at the Edgerton Center and Barker Engineering Library or can be downloaded from the web.

E-mail Lists and Website

There is an e-mail list for our seminar, d-lab-students@mit.edu, which you can use to ask questions or send information of interest to the entire class. The class website can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/d-lab/fall-2003>. There are also e.mail lists set up for each recitation: d-lab-haiti@mit.edu, d-lab-india@mit.edu, and d-lab-brazil@mit.edu.

Grading

This is a nine-unit seminar: four hours a week will be spent in class and the remaining five hours will be spent working on homework, practicing language skills and developing the field projects. Because much of the work for this seminar will be done during class time, attendance is essential. Students missing a class meeting should contact the instructors to make up the work. This seminar is graded on a P/D/F basis, however it is a class where your work is impacting the lives of people around the world and we expect an appropriate level of commitment.

In-Class Assignments and Participation	25%
Language Assignments & Quizzes	20%
Homework & Reading Assignments	20%
Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Final Presentation	15%