Study and Research in Diversity and Pluralism  
(Designed for Research Fellows, 2009)

This course is offered by Martin Chautari to competitively selected Research Fellows who will, after course completion, conduct research on various themes related to enhancing the access of marginalized communities to higher education in Nepal. The objectives of this course are to familiarize the participants with: the major concepts and theoretical orientations in the study and research of diversity and pluralism; the various forms of social exclusion and their foundations in Nepal; and, the major political struggles, initiatives and public debates related to inclusion in Nepal and elsewhere.

The course is broadly divided into five sections, each consisting of a number of classes that are moderated by 'experts' in the related fields. It uses an integrated approach in which research methodology and writing are incorporated into each section.

The first part provides an overview of the various interpretations of Nepal's socio-economic and political history and how these interpretations help to grasp the causes of many of Nepal's 'contemporary problems'. It then moves on to trace the historical, political, economic and social foundations of exclusion of various groups and regions (e.g., Dalits, Women, Janajatis, Madhesis and Karnali/Mid and Far West) and the issues raised by various movements associated with the 'liberation' of these groups and regions. After this detailed and empirical treatment of the Nepal case, the second part proceeds to enhance the understanding of the theoretical/conceptual issues in the study and research of diversity and pluralism, such as social exclusion and social inclusion, identity and citizenship, multiculturalism, democracy, and secularism.

The third part focuses on Nepal's school and higher education system, especially examining how unequal access and representation are built into the system and reproduced. The fourth part critically examines the strategies to promote inclusion of hitherto excluded groups (such as affirmative action/positive discrimination, state restructuring and federalism), taking a comparative approach while doing so. And the final part includes a number of sessions that seek to enhance the capacity of the fellows to use specific research methods and tools.
Course content and schedule

January 11: Doing research at Martin Chautari (Pratyoush Onta and Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:
• Academic writing: books reviews, commentaries and articles. (Please read the book review sections in Studies in Nepali History and Society and Media Adhyayan 3, and Notes for Contributors in Studies in Nepali History and Society).

January 12: Introduction to Nepal’s history (Pratyoush Onta)
Reading requirements:

January 14: Commentary on Modern Nepal’s history (CK Lal)

January 15: Nepal’s Development after 1951 (Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:

January 18: Evolution of Nepali Nationalism (Pratyoush Onta)
Reading requirements:


January 19: The Evolution of Democracy in Nepal after 1951 (Ramesh Parajuli)
Reading requirements:

January 21: Understanding Exclusion in Nepal (Lynn Bennett)
Reading requirements:

January 22: Dalit Exclusion and Dalit Aandolan (Khagendra Sangroula and Ahuti)
Reading requirements:

January 25: Janajati Exclusion (Mukta Singh Tamang)
Reading requirements:


January 26: Janajati Aandolan (Pratyoush Onta, Kailash Rai)
Reading requirements:

January 28: The Spatial dimensions of Ethnicity in Nepal (Pitamber Sharma)
Reading requirements:

January 29: Madhes Exclusion and Madhes Aandolan (Brikhesh Chandra Lal)
Reading requirements:

February 1: Exclusion of Karnali (Jagannath Adhikari)
Reading requirements:
February 2: The Language Issue (Yogendra P. Yadav)
Reading requirements:

February 4: Gender Exclusion and Mahila Aandolan (Seira Tamang)
Reading requirements:

February 5: Discussion on opinion paper (Pratyoush Ontha and Pramod Bhatta)

February 9: Social Exclusion and Social Inclusion (Rajendra Pradhan)
Reading requirements:

February 11: Democracy and Inclusive States (Krishna Hachhethu)
Reading requirements:

February 12: Madhes ra Nagarikata (Bhaskar Gautam)
Reading requirements:

February 13: Identity and Citizenship (Mukta Singh Tamang)
Reading requirements:

February 15: Multiculturalism (Mukta Singh Tamang)
Reading requirements:

February 16: Issues in Diversity and Pluralism in Nepal (Hari Prasad Bhattarai)
Reading requirements:

February 18: Hinduism and Secularism (Sudhindra Sharma)
Reading requirements:

February 19: Discussion on opinion paper (Pratyoush Onta and Pramod Bhatta)

February 22: The Responses of Dalit NGOs and the State to Dalit Issues/Aandolan (Durga Sob)
Reading requirements:

February 23: Development of Education in Nepal (Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:

February 25: Equity in Higher Education (Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:

February 26: What we know and don't know much about Nepal's education? Implications for further educational research (Bidhyanath Koirala)

March 1: Issues in Nepal's Education (Kedar Bhakta Mathema)
Reading requirements:

March 2: Issues in Nepal's Higher Education (Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya)
Reading requirements:

March 2: Martin Chautari writing style for academic papers (Shekhar Parajuli)

March 5: Discussion on opinion paper (Pratyoush Onta and Pramod Bhatta)

March 15: Deadline for submission of opinion paper 3.00 pm sharp.

March 16: Reservation/Affirmative Action in India (CK Lal)
Reading requirements:

March 18: Debating the Policies for Social Inclusion in Nepal (Krishna B. Bhattachan)
Reading requirements:

March 19: Affirmative Action in the United States of America (Mark Larsen)
• Timeline of Affirmative Action Milestones in the US.
• Should affirmative action policies, which give preferential treatment based on minority status, be eliminated?
• Civil Rights and Racial Preferences: A Legal History of Affirmative Action.

Reading requirements:

March 23: Reservation/Affirmative Action in Education (Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:

March 29: Hurdles to social inclusion and multiculturalism in the current political transition in Nepal (Krishna Khanal)
Reading requirements:

March 30: Social Inclusion in the Nepali Media (Shekhar Parajuli, JB Bishowkarma)
Reading requirements:
• Onta, Pratyoush, Harshaman Maharjan, Dev Raj Humagain and Shekhar Parajuli (Eds.). 2064 v.s. Samabesi Media. Kathmandu: Martin Chautari. (Read Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 12)
Research Methods Sessions

April 5: The Logic of Social Research: writing a research proposal (Pratyoush Onta and Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:

April 6: What is the 'Field'? (Ramesh Parajuli, Dev Raj Humagain)
Reading requirements:

April 8: Case Study Research (Pramod Bhatta)
Reading requirements:

April 9: Using Large Data Sets: The Logic of Survey Research (Sudhindra Sharma)
Reading requirements:

April 12: Feminist Research Method and Evolution of Research with Gender Perspective (Chandra Bhadra)
Reading requirements:

April 13: Content Analysis (Sharad Ghimire, Komal Bhatta, Harsha Man Maharjan)
Reading requirements:


April 15: Doing a Focus Group Discussion (Madhusudan Subedi)

Reading requirements:


April 19: Doing and Coding an Interview (Navin Rawal)

Reading requirements:


April 20 Generating and Analyzing Qualitative Data (Bhim P. Subedi)

Reading requirements:


April 21: Doing Observations (Janak Rai)

Reading requirements:
