Students in this Directed Research seminar will join the Community Mobilization in Crisis (CMIC) research team, consisting of faculty and students from the School of Political Studies, the School of International Development and Global Studies, and other uOttawa programs, along with researchers based at the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. CMIC’s current research examines community organizing and mobilization in the Middle East, North Africa (MENA), and elsewhere, aiming to bridge paradigms of community development and community organizing developed in North America and propagated by Northern NGOs, donor states, and UN agencies with local and Indigenous models, epistemological and ontological frameworks, and practices. Over the spring/summer term, students will work alongside the team preparing to implement and evaluate the use of these materials in a pilot program in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. They will have the opportunity to choose whether to focus on material development and research, or on evaluation process. This Directed Research course is ideal for students with an interest in research toward solidarity, decolonising higher education, transnationalism, and transformative or social change. Readings and group meetings will be conducted in English, but knowledge of written or oral Arabic or French will open new opportunities for data collection and analysis.

**KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

A. **Mid-term project evaluation [40% of final grade]**
Students will a) submit reading notes (minimum 2 paragraphs per reading) for all background reading, and b) submit an analytical review essay of a book or collection of articles related to the focus they want to choose for their final project (minimum 100 pages of reading to be covered in the essay; the essay should be of about 5 pages).

B. **Evaluation of final project [60% of final grade]**
Students will carry out a major research task that is related to their interests and the needs of the CMIC team. Some options will be:
• A completed and revised online learning module on a critical issue, including a mixture of external resources and CMIC-produced research data;
• Sets of evaluation documents, include pre-tests, post-tests, focus group guidelines, or other summative evaluation tools;
• a translation of a key text or set of texts (between any two of English, French, Arabic, or another language), along with a reflective essay on the merits and concepts contained in the translated text

The work involved in the final output will be equivalent to a 20-25 page (12 point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, including reference lists) research paper.