



Winter/Spring 2020

# Business on the Frontlines (North) SMO 680



An **exploration** of  
the role of business in  
development and  
peace building

**Application** of business  
skills to tough, live  
problems

**Partnerships** between the  
University of Alberta/University  
of Notre Dame and various  
organizations

**Combination** of  
classroom learning  
and field research

**Opportunity** to use business  
For the common good







### Why BOTFL?

- I am an adventure junkie
- Less talk, more action
- Beyond “insert hands”
- If not us then who?

*You are special. I do not say this to flatter you. I say it to oblige you. Because special people do not have the luxury of living ordinary lives.*



# Schedule

January 2023

June 2023

First meeting

- Gathering
- Project formalization
- Logistics planning

Class work

- 5 classes on Saturdays or Sundays (to be chosen by whole team)
- Readings
- Reflections

Collaboration with Advance Team

- Partner and team meetings
- Development of Deliverables (Country profile, Partner profile, Hypotheses)
- Support for advance team pre, in and post country activities

In Country

- Field research
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Participant observation
- In country presentations

Final Deliverables

# The Possible Projects



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION



What opportunities can be found in the IT sector in Kyrgyzstan?



How can sustainable farming help reintegrate ex-combatants and coccaleros back into their communities in Colombia?



How can entrepreneurship incubators support organic farmers in South Africa?



# Expectations

- First priority safety
- Second priority is the client - recognition of opportunity cost
- Manufacturing a specific “student experience” is a distant third
  - Itineraries, plans, objectives and maybe even countries may change
  - Discomfort (physical, intellectual and emotional) is likely
- Perspective:
  - We don't have the answers, we aren't going to solve the world's problems
  - Learn and serve
  - Alter the trajectory of our partners/beneficiaries



# Application Process

- Written application due Dec 1 –  
Template to be sent through  
MBA Academic Services
- Brief in person interview
- Questions: [eblock@ualberta.ca](mailto:eblock@ualberta.ca)

























