



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

School of Social Work



CASE

MANDEL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

India Study Abroad

SIU: Independent Study SOCW 478

Case/MSASS: Travel & Study Seminar SASS 575 & SASS 375

**Instructors: Dhruvodi Mukherjee Ph.D, Paul D'Angelo, MS, & Deborah Jacobson, Ph.D.
Dec 26, 2007 - Jan 10, 2008**

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Course Description:

The India Study Abroad trip will take place between December 26, 2007 and January 10 2008. The study abroad trip will include visit to three major cities in India: Mumbai (Bombay), New Delhi and Jaipur, along with a trip to the Taj Mahal for recreational purposes. The theme of this study abroad program explores the innovative approaches to social development in India and draws parallel to that of the United States. The purpose of the trip is to familiarize students with Indian social development and social policy issues in regards to poverty alleviation, non-formal education, prostitution, HIV-AIDS, multicultural aspects of healthcare, international adoption and application of information communication technologies in addressing social problems. The trip will include guided tours to neighborhoods, field-action project sites, social and educational institutions and government establishments. Daily lectures by practicing social workers, policy advocates, field workers, healthcare professionals, government officials and eminent Indian scholars and researchers associated with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi School of Social Work, and the National Institute of Information Technology will further enhance students' understanding.

Two pre-trip orientation sessions will be organized during Fall 2007. The first orientation session will take place on Friday, November 9, 11: 30 to 1:00 at the School of Social Work, SIUC and the second pre-trip session will take place on Tuesday, December 11, 11:30 to 1:00 at the School of Social Work, SIUC. The purpose of these sessions is to introduce students with the organization, structure and schedule of the trip and also to address their questions and concerns. These orientation sessions will also be organized online using live chat sessions and videos of the sessions will be posted on the India Study Abroad official website. A wrap up session will be organized on return (the date for these sessions will be announced shortly). Students who will sign up for three credit hours will write a twelve double spaced reflection paper on their return. The students will discuss the organization of the paper with the instructors during the trip. A list of selected readings on India (see attach) has been included with this syllabus for students' reference.

Requirement:

Students who sign up for credit hours are required to:

- ✓ Attend and participate in all the pre and post trip sessions (Face to Face/Online)
- ✓ Participate in all the group sessions during the study tour in India
- ✓ Read the selected readings (attached) for background information on India
- ✓ Record ongoing observations in form of daily site journal.
- ✓ Prepare a 7- 10 pages research paper on their study abroad experiences.

Participants, who would not opt for credit hours, are required to:

- ✓ Attend and participate in all the pre and post trip sessions (Face-to-Face/Online)

- ✓ Participate in all the group sessions during the study tour in India
- ✓ Read the selected readings (attached) for background information on India

Course objectives:

Through participation in this course, each student will be able to:

- ✓ Introduce students to social development and policy issues in India such as poverty alleviation, non-formal education, prostitution, HIV-AIDS and multicultural aspects of healthcare in Indian context.
- ✓ Become familiar with the new innovative approaches to social policy and development practices using information communication technologies.
- ✓ Provide first hand information to students on collaboration efforts between the United States and India in funding social development projects and cross-cultural collaborations.
- ✓ Identify important similarities and differences between policy, practice, history, cultural attitudes, and morality in the United States and India.
- ✓ Develop students' skills in recording ongoing observations in the form of a daily site journal.
- ✓ Integrate theory, observational and didactic components to gain a rounded intercultural perspective of each of the topic areas within each country.

Course Structure:

The course will contain two pre-trip orientation sessions; the first one will be held on Friday, November 9, 11: 30 to 1:00 at the School of Social Work, SIUC and the second pre-trip session will take place on Tuesday, December 11, 11:30 to 1:00 at the School of Social Work, SIUC. Information and videos related to these sessions will be posted on the official India Study Abroad website. On Tuesday, December 18, 2007 we will leave for Mumbai (India) and will return on Monday January 7, 2008. Students are expected to attend ALL educational sessions that are planned Monday through Friday. The weekend before departure i.e. Saturday January 5 and Sunday January 6 2008 will be spent on wrapping up and evaluation related activities.

Proposed Itinerary: (to be updated when information becomes available)

Mumbai (Bombay) Schedule: Dec 26 – Jan 10. Bombay is located on the western peninsula of Indian subcontinent bordering the Arabian Sea. It is the home of Bollywood film industry and financial capital of India. Bombay also has the reputation of housing the largest slum of Asia. In Bombay students will be hosted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, one of the premier institutes in Asia on social work and social science research. Between Monday to Friday students will visit various agencies working on the social issues mentioned in the course objectives. During the weekend students will take guided recreation tours to the city of Bombay and will have time on their own to shop and do other recreation activities. Students will spend the Christmas Eve in Bandra neighborhood of Bombay, which has one of the oldest catholic Christian neighborhoods. Students will attend daily group sessions that will sum up the days experiences and will also contain lectures by invited professional in the field.

New Delhi Schedule: Dec 26 – Dec 29 & Jan 2 0 Jan 6. In New Delhi Students will be hosted by the Delhi School of Social Work and National Institute of Information Technology. During the weekdays students will visit various social and governmental institutions and learn about their work. During the weekend students will be taken for guided tours of the palaces, fortresses and other ancient and modern attractions of New Delhi. During weekday's students will participate in group discussion sessions and interact with the invited speakers after field trip. The last two days before the departure will be spent on wrapping up and evaluation related activities.

The Taj Mahal and Jaipur Trip: Dec 30 – Jan 1 (2007-2008). On December 30, students will leave for a guided to one of the Seven Wonders of the World; the Taj Mahal. This leg of the trip will be completely recreational and will have components of cultural and historical orientation of the ancient heritage of India.

Course Requirements

Participation (30%): Attendance and active participation in all pre-trip seminars, all educational excursions and post wrap-up seminar are required.

Daily Field Journal (40%): Students will be required to keep an up to date account of their work on the site. This journal will also include reflections and interpretations about their learning on the field trips and interactions with practicing social workers, policy advocates, field workers, healthcare professionals, government officials and eminent Indian scholars and researchers. Journal will be collected for evaluation and feedback during the weekend before departure. The journal will include the following elements:

- description of the social and educational institutions visited
- description of the contrasts between practices in India with that of the US
- reflection on the interaction with practicing professionals
- discussion on observational and didactic components
- where relevant, personal commentary on the learning experiences in the field.

Research Paper (30%): Each student will write a brief summary paper (7-10 pages) at the end of the field session on the topic relating to his/her experience on the trip. Students need to submit this by February 25, 2008, thus will get more than one and half month after their return to work on this paper. The topics for this paper will be determined by the instructor

Course Credit – 3 hours (three weeks) (Students can also opt for 6 credit hours with additional assignment to be determined by the instructor).