Welcome!

COSMOPOLITAN SOUTH INDIA:
Braided Histories, Religions, and Cultures
Western Washington University
Summer 2020

Course Info:  HUMA 337  ▽  10 credits  ▽  ACGM Credit

Course Website:  http://canvas.wwu.edu

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Summary of Dates and Locations:
- Predeparture Orientation at WWU, June 13–14, 2020
- Travel dates: August 5–September 10, 2020
- Post-travel Retreat at WWU, September 22, 2020
- Major sites: Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Kochi in Kerala; Mysuru and Hampi in Karnataka

Course Overview:  Field study focusing on the cosmopolitan history of the south Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka. These states have a mild sub-tropical climate and are among the most affluent and educated in India. We will study and visit sites such as the ancient Tamil city of Madurai; Kerala’s mountains and lowlands as well as the port city Kochi with its long history of Indian ocean trade connections with the Arab world, Africa, and Europe; Mysuru, center of a “princely state” that remained semi-autonomous under British colonial rule; and Hampi, the ruined capital of the 13th–16th century Vijayanagara empire. Additional highlights include exploring the 1,500 year old Chalukya cave temples of Badami and surrounding sites, climbing to the sacred hilltop birthplace of the Hindu monkey-god Hanuman, visiting churches, mosques, and a synagogue dating to the 16th century and earlier, and the sacred Jain center of Sravanabelgola, where
the ancient Mauryan emperor Chandragupta is believed to have starved himself to death as a religious penance. Altogether students will be exposed to the history, art, architecture, and literature of six religions and 2,300 years of history, including the history of the spice trade that led to modernity and globalization.

Expected Expenses per Student for Anticipated Enrollment of 10:

- Program fee: $2,350 (including all in-country and faculty travel expenses)
- Tuition: $2,500
- Airfare: $1,100
- Misc WWU fees: $1,145 (includes deposit)
- Other: $500 (passport, personal, books)
- Total: $7,595

Please contact Dr. Slouber for funding advice and information on applicable scholarships.

Learning Objectives:

This course in the content and methods of history and the humanities meets the University’s GUR learning competencies #1, 2, 4, 7, and 8. Specifically, you will:

- Know the key people and developments in South Asia’s rich cultural history
- Understand India’s global influence, historically and today
- Be able to articulate the complexities of religion, gender, and modernity in India, and reflexively apply that understanding to related issues in our own society
- Improve your critical reading, thinking, and analytical writing skills

Readings:

And a coursepack of additional readings (expected printing cost < $12)

Learning Goals:

- Acquire a basic understanding of the history of south India with an emphasis on the history post-1498
- Cultural competence: students will be familiar with the social, religious, and political forces that have shaped southern Indian culture
- Cosmopolitanism: students will understand the challenges and promise of India as a meeting point and melting pot of a diverse range of people
- Reflexivity: students will become aware of and critically reflect on their own privileges and biases
- Others to be determined

Ideas for Assessment of Learning:

- Participation in scheduled activities (orientation, site visits, discussions, post-travel retreat)
- Active participation in discussion of readings
- Field journal
- Map quiz
- 3 exams on facts of history and vocabulary for each area (Kochi, Mysuru, Hampi)
- Reflective essay on cultural differences
- Others to be determined

Course Schedule

**Bellingham Orientation**

_**June 13—14**, Orientation at WWU, Saturday and Sunday after Spring finals week

**Arrival in Bengaluru and Madurai** (Karnataka and Tamil Nadu States)

Madurai Unit Readings:

- *Cilappatikaram*
- *Darshan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*
- *Caste in India*
- “Non-Veg”
Aug 5, Depart YVR (Vancouver, Canada)

Aug 7, (Day 1) Arrive BLR (Bengaluru, India), Hotel: Pratham Presidency (OYO 16990)
   AM: Rest and recovery
   PM: flight to Madurai

Aug 8, (Day 2) AM: Rest and recovery
   PM: Meenakshi Amman Temple

Aug 9, (Day 3) AM: Rest and recovery
   PM: Study and discussion

Aug 10, (Day 4) AM: Group Discussion
   PM: Ground transportation to Kumily, Kerala

WESTERN GHATS AND BACKWATERS (Kerala State)

Western Ghats Unit Readings:
   • “Gods’ homes, men’s courts, women’s rights”
   • “Short fiction from Kerala”
   • “Bhadra’ali: Queen of Kerala’s Backwaters”

Aug 11, (Day 5) AM: Spice plantation
   PM: Free afternoon (recommended: elephant ride or lake cruise)

Aug 12, (Day 6) AM: Ground transport to Kumarakom
   PM: night on houseboat

Aug 13, (Day 7) AM: Backwaters cruise
   PM: Mannarasala Temple
   Laundry Day

Aug 14, (Day 8) AM/PM: Tour of Amritapuri University and Ashram
   PM: Ground transportation to Fort Kochi

FORT KOCHI (Kerala State)

Fort Kochi Unit Readings:
   • The Indian Ocean in World History
   • “The Indian Christian Tradition”
   • “The Indian Jewish Tradition”
   • “The Indian Muslim Tradition”

Aug 15, (Day 9) AM: Study and discussion
   PM: Evening performance of Kathakali dance
Aug 16, (Day 10) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: St. Francis Church, Santa Cruz Basilica, and Indo-Portuguese museum

Aug 17, (Day 11) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: Mattancherry Palace, Paradesi Synagogue, and spice markets

Aug 18, (Day 12) AM: Free time (Recommended: cooking class)  
PM: Evening demonstration of Kalarippayatu

Aug 19, (Day 13) Day trip to Kannaki temple: Kodungallur Bhagavati  
Laundry Day

Aug 20, (Day 14) Day trip to Thrissur: Cheraman Juma Mosque and Vedic School

Aug 21, (Day 15) Free day, Fort Kochi

Aug 22, (Day 16) Flight to Bengaluru, Ground Transportation to Mysuru

**MYSURU/MYSORE** (Karnataka State)

Mysuru Unit Readings:
- “Chamundi of the Hill and Uttanahalli”
- TBA Gogröf
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- *Tipu Sultan’s Search for Legitimacy*
- “The Nun’s Tale”

Aug 23, (Day 17) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: Chamundi Hill

Aug 24, (Day 18) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: Royal Palace

Aug 25, (Day 19) AM: Free time  
PM: Read and discuss “The Nun’s Tale”

Aug 26, (Day 20) Full day trip: Sravanabelgola  
Laundry Day

Aug 27, (Day 21) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: Mysuru Manuscript Library

Aug 28, (Day 22) Study and discussion day

Aug 29, (Day 23) Full day trip: Srirangapatnam

Aug 30, (Day 24) AM: St. Philomena Church  
PM: TBD

Aug 31, (Day 25) TBD
Sep 1, (Day 26) Free Day  
Laundry Day

Sep 2, (Day 27) NGO Site Visit

Sep 3, (Day 28) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: Mysuru to Hampi by train

**Hampi, Aihole, Badami** (Karnataka State)

Mysuru Unit Readings:
- *Hampi Vijayanagara*
- *The Ramayana*
- “Selections from Classical Hindu Mythology”
- *The Giver of the Worn Garland*

Sep 4, (Day 29) Full day guided site visits

Sep 5, (Day 30) Full day guided site visits

Sep 6, (Day 31) AM: Study and discussion  
PM: Free time

Sep 7, (Day 32) Full day guided site visits Aihole, Pattadakal  
Laundry Day

Sep 8, (Day 33) AM: guided site visit Badami  
PM: optional hike to view field sights

Sep 9, (Day 34) Badami to Bengaluru by train

Sep 10, (Day 35) Departure

Post-trip Retreat

Sep 22 Post-trip follow-up at WWU

TBD Fall Symposium for department and community where students and faculty speak about their experience with the program