

India J-Term 2019
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Instructor: Ayesha Patnaik

Office phone: 608.785.6718

Office: 4228 Centennial Hall

e-mail: apatnaik@uwlax.edu

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 am-1:00 pm and by appointment

Course overview

Welcome to CST 332, Intercultural Communication, in the context of India. This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the relationship between culture and communication, within the specific environment of India. India is an ancient and diverse civilization whose history of Hindu princely states, Mughal invasions and British colonial rule have greatly influenced its culture and communication styles. Language, identity, non-verbal codes and cultural spaces (key elements of any culture) have evolved to produce a communicative approach that is nationally distinctive yet varies as you travel across the country.

Rapidly changing geo-political events make it critical that you are able to navigate the world effectively and work across international and intercultural divides. The study of intercultural communication provides perspective in understanding broader social, political and historical contexts that enable and even create culture and communication.

India and the United States are closely connected through business, and the very large Indian immigrant population here in America. India is the largest democracy in the world, and has the fastest growing economy amongst the major nations. Additionally, nearly one in every five people on the planet is from India. These facts make it likely that you will connect with someone of Indian origin within a work or personal context.

We will travel to India and spend roughly 19 days there immersing ourselves in various cultural locales and settings. We will spend time in 5 locations (mostly northern and western India): Delhi, Jaipur, Chandelao, Varanasi and Mumbai. In each of these locations, we will visit various sites of cultural, historical and spiritual significance. We will meet students, local academicians, members of NGO's and have a home stay with a local family. The purpose is to explore and discover new communicative paradigms within a specific historical, cultural and political context, stimulating introspection about the world and our role in it. Using the work of researchers Florence Kluckhohn and Fred Strodtbeck, and social psychologist Geert Hofstede, you will view and make sense of diverse and alternative communicative styles and cultural patterns through exposure to a variety of authentic situations.

Michael Hecht, a communication scholar, developed a theory of identity in 1993. He claims that communication is an iterative process, and our identities emerge in relationships with others and are expressed in core symbols, meanings and labels. You will experience identities, familial and spiritual, typical of traditional societies – and core symbols that may diverge from what you may be used to. This experience into a new “cultural space”, particularly through the homestays, will provide a peek into the cultural and communicative paradigms of the Indian family.

One approach to studying culture views it as “heterogeneous, dynamic and a contested zone” (Martin & Nakayama 2018). Through this exposure you may also become more sensitive to the dialectical tensions that emerge in societies in transition, such as India and the US, hopefully leading to a greater introspective framework, on issues of equity, sustainability and cultural pluralism. You may encounter widely differing cultural expectations, experience some ethnocentrism, perceive your own privilege, and learn firsthand how economics, geography and historical events interact to create and sustain culture and communication.

The selection of locales to be visited is deliberate and intended to show varying cultural dynamics – Delhi, the modern capital of India; Jaipur, an ancient city ruled by the Hindu princely Rajputs, now a contemporary thriving space for traditional arts and crafts; Chandelao a small town, perfect for photography – where the slow pace of life allows one to capture human expression and activity in its most authentic state; Varanasi, the most revered seat of spirituality for Hindus, and Mumbai, the bustling economic and business nerve center of the country.

Ms. Archana Kumar, an accomplished photographer and native of India will accompany us on this trip. She will use photography as a medium to lead you to a deeper understanding of the culture. In her words:

I will help enhance students' ability to see better – help in decoding the cultural milieu by observing and deconstructing the scene: facial expressions, gestures, body language, relationships with those around them, their animals and their surroundings. In other words... tell a story.

Under her guidance you will use your camera extensively to capture subjects and scenes of cultural significance, and these will be used for a photographic exhibition upon our return to La Crosse.

Overall, we will examine the very nature of culture, as well as how communication functions within the Indian cultural milieu. Cultural, socio-cultural, psycho-cultural, and environmental influences will be explored in terms of how they affect the communication process. We will use on-location site visits, course readings, active discussions, and photography in order to better understand how human communication both influences, and is influenced by, various aspects of culture.

Course objectives

If you engage fully in this course, by its conclusion, you will:

- Understand the nature of culture
- Understand the relationship between history, culture and communication, against the backdrop of a mature society such as India
- Examine your own cultural identity
- Understand the role of verbal and nonverbal codes in the development and maintenance of communication
- Have deep and immersive exposure to interpersonal relationships with people from India
- Gain increased intercultural communication competence
- Create a portfolio of photographs, for an exhibition at UW-L upon our return

Readings

Martin, J., & Nakayama, T. (2018). *Intercultural Communication in Contexts* (7th Ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Course Policies and Expectations

1. **Attendance:** This course will be enriched by your presence in both body and mind. Thus, when you are in India please engage fully by participating in discussions, activities, and presentations.
2. **Preparation and participation:** Because this class will be primarily conducted on location and needs thorough advance preparation, you are expected to have completed the course readings during the pre-departure sessions. The readings are crucial to your engagement and being intellectually ready for the on location experiences in India.
3. **Environment:** As you navigate the interesting, sometimes challenging new environment make a conscious effort to be supportive for everyone. Harsh criticism, facetious remarks, speaking when others are presenting or speaking, making insensitive comments, and other similar behaviors will not be tolerated and demonstrate a lack of maturity and communicative competence. We will maintain an inclusive climate where all ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities are respected.

Please note: This will be a challenging yet rewarding and potentially transformative experience

Participation (100 points): This class is designed to be an interactive one, where students are invited, encouraged, and expected to engage actively in discussion, reflection, and activities. Consequently, participation and engagement will be noted throughout the roughly 3 weeks that we are in India and the time before in preparation. It is in your best interests, as a learner, to participate actively in the pre-departure classes in a variety of ways. Some ways to participate include answering questions, participating in large-group discussion, engaging in small group activities, not missing class, being on time for class, bringing requested items to class (e.g., articles or printouts), demonstrating a positive attitude, and actively listening. You are expected to participate consistently in all of these ways.

Pre-departure Assignments

1. **Any Old Bag Will Do (20 points)** is your first assignment. You need to bring a bag with 3 items in it that pertain to your identity and how you enact/perform it. You will be required to give a 4 minute presentation to the class about how the three items relate to your understanding and enactment of your identity.
2. **Identity reflection paper (50 points):** In this 3-4 page paper, you will examine your own cultural identity as it relates to your values and your subsequent communication with others. Think deeply about your cultural heritage, which includes, but is not limited to, the traditions that you observe, your deeply held values, how you view relationships and other people, and your daily rituals/routines. Note: Your cultural heritage may or may not be an important aspect of your identity (e.g., You may be Norwegian and Scottish but not know anything about these cultures), and that is okay. The important thing, then, may be for you to think about the implications of your identity as, for example, a White, middle-class Lutheran female. What values, perspectives, and discomforts arise from identifying yourself in this way? What privileges arise from your different identities? Make every attempt to go beyond surface level in this paper; do not just make a list of your personal attributes, but really dig deep to try to see how you are culturally grounded and how this grounded-ness influences how you relate to other people. You will be expected to share your reflections with your classmates in small groups.
3. **Discussion Leadership (50 points):** In groups of 2-3 students, you will be responsible for leading a class discussion for an entire day's readings and experiences. You will have the opportunity to select the day/readings at the beginning of the semester. As a group, your discussion should include the following:
 - a. A brief (5-minute) summary of the readings and your perceptions of the day's activities.
 - b. Connections you made between the readings and with the other readings and/or your own personal experiences
 - c. Questions or activities to prompt class discussion

On-location Assignments

1. **Journaling (100 points):** You are expected to maintain a regular journal while you are in India. This should capture your daily impressions, and emotional and intellectual reactions to what you are experiencing
2. **Photography:** You are expected to regularly use your camera /phone to capture the local environment.

Grades: All assignments will be graded according to point value.

Assignment	Point value
Attitude and Involvement	100
Any Old Bag Will Do	20
Identity reflection paper	50
Discussion leadership	50
Journal	100
Photography	50
Total	370

Based on the total number of points you earn in this class, the following grade scale will be used in calculating your final grade:

Letter grade	Percentage	Description
A	94 -100%	Demonstrates exemplary work, maturity, participation, enthusiasm and intentionality in India
A/B	89-93.99%	Demonstrates excellent work
B	84-88.99%	Demonstrates substantial maturity, skill, creativity, initiative, and/or effort
B/C	79-83.99%	Demonstrates above average work and maturity exceeds requirements slightly
C	70-78.99%	Acceptable/required performance; meets but does not exceed all requirements
D	60-69.99%	Lacking in performance; met some requirements but needs substantial improvement

Tentative Course Calendar*

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
Pre-departure TBA	Introductions, syllabus	Introduction and discussion of class content
Pre-departure TBA	Imperatives for Intercultural Communication	Any Old Bag Will Do presentation and Ch. 1 Martin and Nakayama
Pre-departure TBA	Culture and Communication	Hooker, J. (2009). The cultural iceberg. In L. A. Samovar, R. E. Porter, & E. R. McDaniel (Eds.), <i>Intercultural communication: A reader</i> (12th ed.). (pp. 59-64). Boston, MA: Wadsworth. Discussion group 1

Pre-departure TBA	History and Intercultural Communication	Reading: Ch. 4 Martin and Nakayama Article to be announced Discussion group 2
Pre-departure TBA	Identity and Intercultural communication	Reading: Ch. 5 Martin and Nakayama Discussion group 3
Pre-departure TBA	Intercultural Relationships	Reading: Ch. 10 Martin and Nakayama Discussion group 4
Pre-departure TBA	Intercultural Transitions	Reading: Ch. 8 Discussion group 5 Identity reflection paper due
Pre-departure TBA	Final discussions and questions	
Departure December 30th from Chicago	Congregate at O'Hare International Airport	Board flight
Arrival January 1 st Delhi	Day 1	<p>Arrival at airport. Transfer to YWCA, Parliament Street New Delhi.</p> <p>Breakfast at the YWCA restaurant.</p> <p>Orientation at Seminar Hall of YWCA. Review itinerary, basic safety and health overview etc. Talk on the Society, Politics and Culture of North India (resource person to be arrange by UoL).</p> <p>Lunch at YWCA.</p> <p>Guided driven tour of Delhi to see Connaught Place, Rashtrapati Bhavan, North Block, Parliament, India Gate, etc.</p> <p>Personal time.</p> <p>Dinner at YWCA / Other option. Debriefing and prep for the next day after dinner.</p>

Jan 2 nd Delhi	Day 2	<p>Breakfast at YWCA. Lecture Interaction with Malashri Lal - Women in India. http://illl.du.ac.in/pdf/malashri.pdf</p> <p>Visit to Guild of Service Delhi, Delhi Office. http://www.guild.org.in/</p> <p>Visit to Jawaharlal Nehru University.</p> <p>Visit to Naz Foundation. http://nazindia.org/</p> <p>Evening free to explore.</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p>
Jan 3 rd Delhi	Day 3	<p>Visit St. Stephens College/ National Museum.</p> <p>Lunch at Dilli Haat. http://www.delhitourism.gov.in/delhitourism/tourist_place/dilli_haat_INA.jsp</p> <p>Visit work of Pratham NGO. http://www.pratham.org/</p> <p>Dinner at the home of local businessman, Mr. Kishan Dass.</p>
Jan 4 th Delhi	Day 4	<p>Drive to Agra.</p> <p>Visit Guild of Service Campus near Mathura.</p> <p>Visit to stone workers in Agra.</p> <p>Night stay at Hotel Mansingh. http://www.mansinghotels.com/Mansingh-Palace-Agra/overview</p> <p>Dinner options open – debrief after dinner.</p>
Jan 5 th	Day 5	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Mansingh.</p> <p>Morning guided tour/visit to Taj Mahal.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Afternoon visit to Fatehpur Sekri.</p> <p>Drive to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in the evening. Overnight Stay at Bharatpur.</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p>
Jan 6 th	Day 6	<p>Guided tour to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary.</p> <p>Visit to Lupin Himan Welfare Society and see some of their field projects.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Drive to Jaipur.</p>

		<p>Stay at Hotel Saneer. https://www.tripadvisor.in/Hotel_Review-g304555-d1891055-Reviews-FabHotel_Saneer_Jaipur_Airport-Jaipur_Jaipur_District_Rajasthan.html</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p> <p>Debrief after dinner.</p>
Jan 7 th	Day 7	<p>Interaction on Idea of Rajasthan (resource person to be provided by Uol).</p> <p>Sight-seeing day in Jaipur.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Visit to Amer Palace (optional elephant rides).</p> <p>Visit to Jaigarh and Nahargarh Forts.</p> <p>Spend time in the Old City.</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p>
Jan 8 th	Day 8	<p>Visit to Kalakar Basti.</p> <p>Interaction with students at University of Rajasthan.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Interaction with students and faculty at Institute of Development Studies.</p> <p>Own time/shopping/lectures or interactions on topic to be decided.</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p>
Jan 9 th	Day 9	<p>Home stay orientation.</p> <p>Home stay drops.</p>
Jan 10 th	Day 10	Home stays.
Jan 11 th	Day 11	<p>Pick up and debrief.</p> <p>Drive to Shekhawati.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Overnight stay at Desert Resort or equal. http://www.desertresortmandawa.com/</p> <p>Visit painted Havelis of Shekhawati.</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p>
Jan 12 th	Day 12	Lecture/interaction.

		<p>Visit small organic farm.</p> <p>Visit Dundlodh Castle.</p> <p>Drive to Chadelao.</p> <p>Overnight in Chandelao.</p>
Jan 13 th	Day 13	<p>Day in Chandelao – Activities to be announced.</p> <p>Lunch and dinner options open.</p> <p>Debrief after dinner.</p>
Jan 14 th	Day 14	<p>Drive to Jaipur and fly to Varanasi.</p> <p>Arrive at host families: Lehar Tara home stay, tea/snacks.</p> <p>Rai Ajay Kumar & family.</p> <p>Orientation talk on the city of Varanasi, by Naval Krishna, Bharat Kala Museum Curator & Expert on Varanasi.</p> <p>Boat ride on the Ganga, observe Aarti.</p> <p>Dinner with host family.</p>
Jan 15 th	Day 15	<p>Walk on the Ghats.</p> <p>Guided visit to Buddhist Monument of Sarnath.</p> <p>Trip to Benaras Hindu University and Bharat Kala Bhavan. Interaction with faculty and students.</p> <p>Debrief after dinner.</p>
Jan 16 th	Day 16	<p>Fly to Mumbai.</p> <p>Accommodation to be finalized – tentatively the Royal Bombay Yacht Club.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Relax, walk on Marine Drive, see Gateway of India.</p>
Jan 17	Day 17	<p>Visit to Elephanta Caves.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Visit to Stock Exchange / Lintas Advertising Agency.</p> <p>Discussion on the values of the Indian middle class, and how advertising functions within the Indian consumer environment.</p> <p>Dinner options open.</p> <p>Debrief after dinner.</p>

Jan 18 th	Day 18	<p>Rest, relax, pack and explore the city. Final debrief.</p> <p>Lunch options open.</p> <p>Dinner with Rear Admiral G. C. Thadani & Mrs. Pushpa Thadani.</p>
<i>Jan 19th</i>	<i>Day 19</i>	<i>Fly back to the United States.</i>