

SYLLABUS

**SOCIAL WORK IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT:
EXPLORING SOCIAL ISSUES & NGO RESPONSES IN MUMBAI, INDIA**

**(0405-555 Social Work Special Topics)
(0103-590 Anthropology Special Topics)
3 credits (16 hours/day for 12 days)**

COURSE DIRECTORS

Subadra Panchanadeswaran
Associate Professor, School of Social Work
School of Social Work, Rm 229, panchanadeswaran@adelphi.edu
(tel. 516-877-4310)

Hanna H. Kim
Associate Professor, Anthropology Department
Alumnae Hall, Rm 213, hannakim@adelphi.edu
(tel. 516-877-4115)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an elective that brings students to India. It provides a culturally immersive opportunity to examine the intersection of culture, social issues, and social work responses from the perspectives of those living and working in the city of Mumbai, India. Situated entirely in the mega-city of Mumbai, students will have a combination of classroom instruction, interaction with counterpart Indian students and professors, and field visits to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that will highlight the opportunities and challenges for interventions with individuals, groups and communities in the Mumbai context. Students will also be introduced to the city of Mumbai, exploring how this ancient fishing village has transformed into a global city and commercial capital of India. Experiencing firsthand the lives of “Mumbaikars” or residents of Mumbai, students will gain exposure to peoples, languages, and cultures in a dynamic urban environment, one that like many in the developing world supports a spectrum of classes, from the ultra-wealthy to among the most ignored.

The course, from classroom to living arrangement, is based at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (“TISS”), the premier academic institution for social science education in India. This partnership with TISS enhances students’ opportunity to learn through immersion in a residential academic setting, with planned fieldwork excursions in and around Mumbai. Cumulatively, the course will provide an introductory overview of the historical, sociopolitical and cultural contexts of social issues and social work in India.

COURSE NOTES

Please note that acceptance for this study abroad course will require interviews with Course Directors. No prior experience with India is required. Ideal students are those with an open attitude to new and unfamiliar experiences and a willingness to embrace personal and intellectual challenges.

This course provides the 3-credit elective requirement for MSW students in the School of Social Work. It can also be used as continuing education for post-MSW individuals. The course requires CLASS registration, and registration through the Center for International Education by a specific schedule specified by the Center for International Education. See below under “Course or Materials Fee.”

For undergraduate students, this course is an elective 3-credit Independent Study course where tuition and credits are covered under the Spring semester (if total credits are 17 and under). Expenses specific to the study abroad course (i.e. beyond the tuition cost) are listed under “Course or Materials Fee” section in this syllabus.

Undergraduate students in the course will receive instruction at the graduate level and will have the option to apply the course credits toward either their undergraduate degree or future graduate course. This latter option will be decided in consultation with the Course Directors and the Director of International Education.

LEARNING GOALS/DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

At the conclusion of the course, students will:

1. Understand the range of historical, social and cultural factors that are interconnected with the social issues that will be observed in Mumbai.
2. Recognise the role of Indian NGOs, social workers, and activists in contributing particular ideas of society to their beneficiary populations.
3. Recognise the multiple perspectives of those whose personhood, livelihoods, and experiences are central to the mission of NGOs in Mumbai.
4. Exhibit a culturally-nuanced understanding of social work in the global context.
5. Possess a higher sensitivity to cross-cultural issues when observing, studying, and interacting with those whose lives, cultures, and histories appear unfamiliar.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Following return from India, students will demonstrate the integration and application of acquired learning goals in a final written paper. This paper will incorporate assigned readings, India course materials, site visits, and ethnographic observations into a 10 page paper.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Social Work courses SWK 520 and 542 (or comparable courses, as per interview with Course Faculty Directors).

Anthropology courses ANT 0103-111 (or comparable courses, as per interview with Course Faculty Directors).

All candidates for this course will submit an application and answer a comprehensive questionnaire prepared by the Course Directors. Applicant materials will undergo review by the Center for International Education and all applicants will be interviewed by the Course Directors.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requiring disability accommodations are encouraged to make their needs known as soon as possible. The Student Access Office (formerly the Office of Disability Support Services) requests, "if you have a disability that may significantly impact your ability to carry out assigned coursework, please contact the Student Access Office (SAO) at 516-877-3806 or send an email to sao@adelphi.edu. The staff will review your concerns and determine, with you, appropriate and necessary accommodations. Please allow for a reasonable time for requesting ASL Interpreters or transcription Services."

HONOR CODE STATEMENT

Please refer to <http://www.adelphi.edu/current/honor.shtml> or *Adelphi University's Undergraduate & Graduate Bulletins*. Below is an excerpt:

"The University is an academic community devoted to the pursuit of knowledge. Fundamental to this pursuit is academic integrity. In joining the Adelphi community I accept the University's Statement of Academic Integrity and pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and civility embodied in it. I will conduct myself in accordance with ideals of truth and honesty and I will forthrightly oppose actions which would violate these ideals.

The code of academic honesty prohibits behavior, which can broadly be described as lying, cheating, or stealing. Violations of the code of academic honesty will include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Fabricating data or citations
2. Collaborating in areas prohibited by the professor
3. Unauthorized multiple submission of work
4. Sabotage of others' work, including library vandalism or manipulation
5. Plagiarism: presenting any work as one's own that is not one's own
6. The creation of unfair advantage
7. The facilitation of dishonesty
8. Tampering with or falsifying records
9. Cheating on examinations through the use of written materials or giving or receiving help in any form during the exam, including talking, signals, electronic devices, etc."

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

At the end of the study abroad course, course evaluation will be made available electronically via eCampus. Your feedback is valuable and you are encouraged to respond. Please be assured that responses are anonymous and results will not be available to the Course Directors until after the end of the course and therefore after course grades have been submitted.

COURSE OR MATERIALS FEES

The program fee for this 3-credit course, beyond the tuition cost, is USD \$2800 per student, based on an enrollment of 8 students. This calculation includes round trip airfare, all accommodations, and course materials and fees related to academic instruction in India. The fee covers most meals; trips associated with the Mumbai course content; NGO site visits; and, Mumbai city excursions. The fee does not cover personal expenses such as additional meals, personal purchases, and gifts. The amount of \$USD 2800 is due to the Center for International Education (CIE).

Upon submission of the study abroad application to CIE, there is a non-refundable \$300 deposit. CIE establishes the deadlines for payment of the course balance and CIE oversees any refund associated with cancellation from the course.

ASSIGNMENTS/COURSEWORK

This course requires students to be actively engaged with assigned readings and the experiential learning environment that underscore a study abroad course. Students are expected to be fully present for the duration of the program and to complete all required readings. All students will keep a daily journal to document experiences, observations, and reactions to the day's activities including excursions, fieldwork site visits, and classroom activities. No later than four weeks after returning to the U.S., students will be expected to submit a written assignment (up to 10 pages, double spaced, APA 6 format for Social Work students, and discipline-specific citation style for all other students). This final paper will incorporate observed and recorded experiences in India with topics and relevant theoretical and empirical knowledge from readings. Students are welcome to consult with Professors Panchanadeswaran and Kim regarding ideas for this required course paper.

REQUIRED READINGS

Note: All readings, required and recommended, will be posted on the course Moodle site. The timeline for completing readings will be discussed during the Orientation sessions in Fall 2017. Students are encouraged to begin reading prior to the Orientation sessions in order to become familiar with course themes and topics.

The below readings offer a general framework for approaching modern India and Mumbai from historical, political, cultural, and social perspectives. Select readings critically situate humanitarianism, charitable institutions, and NGOs within the context of cross-cultural questions about equal and unequal access to power and the complex motivations underlying the desire "to help." Specific chapters and pages will be provided in PDFs uploaded to the course Moodle site. Social work readings, specific to the social issues covered in this course,

India Study Abroad (Intersession 2018)

are *attached at the end of this syllabus*. The Course Directors will communicate which social work readings are required and which may be recommended.

Appadurai, Arjun (2001) "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics." *Environment & Urbanization*, vol. 13, no. 2, Oct., pp. 23-43.

Bornstein, Erica and Peter Redfield, eds. (2011) *Forces of Compassion: Humanitarianism between Ethics and Politics*. School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar Series.

Bose, Sugata (2011) *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*. Routledge.

Eck, Diana (1998, 3rd edition) *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*. Columbia University Press.

Fassin, Didier (2011) *Humanitarian Reason: a Moral History of the Present*. University of California Press.

French, Patrick (2012) *India: A Portrait*. Vintage.

Giridharadas, Anand (2012) *India Calling: an Intimate Portrait of a Nation's Remaking*. St. Martin's Griffin

Guha, Ramachandra (2008) *India after Gandhi: the History of the World's Largest Democracy*. Harper Perennial.

Jadhav, Narendra (2007) *The Untouchables: My Family's Triumphant Escape from the Caste System*. University of California Press.

Malkki, Liisa (2015) *The Need to Help: the Domestic Arts of International Humanitarianism*. Duke University Press.

Mehta, Suketu (2005) *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*. Vintage.

Nilekani, Nandan (2010) *Imagining India: the Idea of a Renewed Nation*. Penguin Books.

Prakash, Gyan (2011) *Mumbai Fables: a History of an Enchanted City*. Princeton University Press.

Rushdie, Salman (2006)[1981] *Midnight's Children*. Random House.

Sen, Amartya (2006) *The Argumentative India: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity*. Picador.

WEBSITES

Global NGO issues:

<http://theglobaljournal.net/group/ngo-nexus/>

Latest Indian internet news portal with in-depth stories on political and social issues:

<http://scroll.in/>

"Mumbai on the Margins," series of articles in Scroll.in

<https://scroll.in/tags/55849/mumbai-on-the-margins>

Documentary film: "India Untouched: Stories of a People Apart," directed by Stalin K (2007)

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/5752/India-Untouched---Stories-of-a-People-Apart->

Excellent resource for religious traditions (see especially Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism)

<http://pluralism.org/religions/>

FILMS

Though not required, students may find the below films useful to watch prior to departure for India. Films, whether aiming for realism or unapologetically fantastical, or falling somewhere between, offer a rich source of visual, aural, and sensory cues for exploring culture and society. The films below, both the Bollywood fare and otherwise, offer a director's understanding of culture, politics, history, and class; and, all of the films present various social concerns of different segments in contemporary India, albeit with varying degrees of music and dance.

Salaam Bombay (1988), directed by Mira Nair
Dil Chahta Hai (2001), directed by Farhan Akhtar
My Brother... Nikhil (2005), directed by Onir
Black Friday (2007), directed by Anurag Kashyap
Life in a ...Metro (2007), directed by Anurag Basu
Taare Zameen Par (2007), directed by Aamir Khan
Slumdog Millionaire (2008), directed by Danny Boyle
Dhobhi Ghat (2011), directed by Kiran Rao
The Lunchbox (2013), directed by Ritesh Batra
Pink (2016), directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury

GRADING/EVALUATION

Attendance at pre-departure Orientation sessions at the Adelphi University campus in Garden City and for all classes and activities in India is expected and will account for 20% of the course grade. The written final paper will account for 80% of the grade.

The numerical equivalents for letter grades are:

A+ (98 and above)	B+ (87-89)	C+ (77-79)	F (69 and below)
A (93-97)	B (83-86)	C (73-76)	
A- (90-92)	B- (80-82)	C- (70-72)	

The nominal definition of letter grades are:

A is awarded for excellent work. B is awarded for good work.

C is awarded for marginal work. F is awarded for failing work or work that contains plagiarism.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Due to the short length and intense nature of the course, no absences of any kind (except due to illness or accident) are permitted. Students are expected to attend all lectures and missed material (activities and lectures) cannot be made up.

COURSE TOPICS OUTLINE

AN OVERVIEW OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM TO MUMBAI, INDIA

Mumbai, often characterized as one of the most populous, wealthy, and cosmopolitan cities in the world, offers an unprecedented opportunity for exploring a global city and its inhabitants in context. This course focuses on social issues, including class and caste disparities, gender and sexuality, and disability in India. Students will closely analyse the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in responding to and supporting specific populations in the complex geographic space of Mumbai, India. What is the relationship between NGOs, social workers, and activists and their engagement with urban inequalities, gender, sexuality, and disability in the Indian context? Do NGOs support a vision of society that is translatable to their beneficiary populations? Amidst the vitality of Mumbai, the city and its social geography, this course orients students to major social work areas of concern while highlighting the cultural contexts in which they are situated. Students will have the unique opportunity to live on the beautiful and verdant campus of the Tata Institute for Social Sciences (TISS) and experience academic instruction as well as integrated site visits to NGOs and Mumbai places of interest that underscore the city's diverse cultures, peoples, and histories.

November 29, 2017: Orientation Session Part I

[date and time to be confirmed]

Meeting to be held on campus (12 noon to 4 PM)

- Introduction of faculty members Drs. Panchanadeswaran and Kim.
- Orientation to international travel by Ms. Shannon Harrison and Ms. Megan Borsuk of the Center for International Education.
- Review of the course, expectations, and final assignment
- Orientation to the course on Moodle.
- Review of itinerary with time for questions and answers.
- Practical tips for traveling to India.
- Distribution of Reading assignments

December 5, 2017: Orientation Session Part II:

[date and time to be confirmed]

Meeting to be held on campus (12 noon to 4 PM)

- Discussion of reading assignments
- Pre-departure preparation discussion of deadlines

***Daily Itinerary for Social Work & Anthropology Study Abroad to Mumbai, India
Intersession 2018: January 3-14.***

All scheduled daily plans will remain subject to change to ensure the safety of all travelers, and will depend on availability of speakers, geographic feasibility, and unforeseeable events.

Day 1:**3 January 2018, Wednesday**

Departure from JFK/Newark to Mumbai, India

Day 2:**4 January 2018, Thursday**

Arrive in Mumbai. Rest and orientation to academic host, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), and TISS campus in Mumbai.

Day 3:**5 January 2018, Friday**

Morning: Welcome and Orientation Programme

Including Registration, course materials, and laptop configuration

Afternoon: classroom session

History of Social Work in India (TISS faculty) and "Social and Political Implications of the 'Helping' Profession

Afternoon: Exploring the Neighbourhood

Day 4:**6 January 2018, Saturday**

Morning: classroom session

Mumbai in Historical Perspective: Urban Development
(TISS faculty/Doctoral Students)

Architecture and Public Spaces in Mumbai

Afternoon: City Exploration, Disparities in Urban Development

Day 5:**7 January 2018, Sunday**

Tour Programme: Cultural and Historical Sites of Mumbai

Including colonial era buildings and architectural monuments; gardens; religious sites including church(es) and temple(s); well-known neighbourhoods for specific occupations (e.g. Dhobi Ghat); famous vistas (e.g. Marine Drive and Gateway of India).

Day 6:**8 January 2018, Monday**

Morning: classroom session

The complex contexts of social work practice in India: Understanding the manifestations of diverse forms of oppression, social movements and community organizing in urban and rural contexts (TISS faculty)

Afternoon: NGO site visit (Apnalaya)

Evening: Cultural Programming associated with TISS Annual Day

Day 7:**9 January 2018, Tuesday**

Morning: classroom session

Understanding the link between substance use and mental health in India: diagnosing and intervening with populations (TISS faculty)

Afternoon: NGO site visit (Koshish/Field Action Project on Mental Health)

Day 8:**10 January 2018, Wednesday**

Morning: classroom session

Gender & Sexuality from Legal, Policy and Practice Perspectives (TISS faculty)

Afternoon visit: Site visit (MAVA, Special Cell)

Evening: Visit to the South Mumbai coastline

Day 9:**11 January 2018, Thursday**

Morning: classroom session

Child Welfare and Child Protection (TISS faculty)

Historical and Contemporary Approached to Understanding Disability and Aging Issues (TISS faculty)

Afternoon: NGO visit (NASEOH)

India Study Abroad (Intersession 2018)

Day 10:**12 January 2018, Friday**

Morning: classroom session

Disability and Aging in India

Historical and Contemporary Approaches to Understanding Disability and Aging Issues

Preparation for Concluding Meeting and Discussion

Afternoon: Student Presentations and Concluding Seminar

Evening: A traditional western Indian dinner in a restaurant

Day 11:**13 January 2018, Saturday**Morning: Trip to Elephanta Caves, a World Heritage Site containing archaeological, artistic, and architectural artifacts dating to 2nd century bce.

Afternoon: Personal activities

Evening: Celebratory Dinner

Day 12:**14 January 2018, Sunday**

Departure for New York.

Arrival back in New York.

Student Acknowledgement:

I HAVE RECEIVED AND READ THE SYLLABUS FOR (check one):

_____ **(0405-555 Social Work Special Topics)**_____ **(0103-590 Anthropology Special Topics)**

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____