

INTD 290: Grassroots Communities in India
Ramapo College of New Jersey

Course Information	
INTD-290	
Credit Hours	4
Semester / Year	
Class Meeting Date/Time	<i>as per schedule</i>
Prerequisites	CRWT-102 (Critical Reading and Writing II)
Fulfills	General Education: International Issues/Global Awareness

Course Description

This course is an introduction to contemporary Indian life and culture through the lens of grassroots communities. The course will introduce students to India; especially focusing on culture, social diversity, community structures, political and economic discourses of emerging India. Taking a grassroots community perspective, the course will enable students to explore Indian culture, live and engage with rural communities, and learn about social innovation projects led by grassroots communities in rural and urban India. Through a combination of lectures, films, field study experiences and readings, students will gain foundational knowledge about contemporary India and its complex and often contradictory contexts.

Any course on Indian culture must be premised on both its contemporary image and the historical precedents that influence and impact India's current social, political, and economic realities. At the same time, the course will explore the ways in which contemporary India's strengths and weaknesses are rooted in its extensive, complicated history.

Introduction to the local language, Kannada, will be a key component of this course. While urban India is largely conversant in English, rural life is quite different, with most villagers speaking only their local or regional language. Students will be able to have more meaningful experiences in rural Karnataka by gaining some basic knowledge of conversational Kannada. There will be 5 formal hours of language instruction during the course, followed by practice sessions on the Fireflies campus and through trips to local markets and villages.

The course will also infuse practical experiences of community-based activities to help students further understand the topics discussed in the course through real world engagement of the issues.

General Education Program Course

This course meets the requirements of the General Education: International Issues category since it focuses on Indian culture and history, studied within the context of contemporary India. In essence, being part of the India Study Abroad semester program in India, this course is international in content, context, and delivery. This course, based on approval, may count for the Global Awareness category in the new General Education Curriculum.

Course Goals

- A) Provide an overview of key social structures in contemporary India
- B) Provide students with tools for understanding culture in contemporary India
- C) Provide a holistic understanding of how grassroots communities are bringing social change
- D) Provide a structured way for students to reflect on their experiences in India

Measureable Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the complexity of contemporary Indian lived experiences
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the interconnectedness yet distinct differences between urban and rural India
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the impact of pre-colonial and colonial history of India on contemporary Indian life and culture
4. Demonstrate the ability to appreciate the complexity of multiple realities, perspectives, and identities in India,
5. Demonstrate a basic understanding of cultural relativism
6. Demonstrate an understanding of how grassroots communities are addressing social problems and leading social innovation projects
7. Demonstrate basic skills required to interact with villagers in their local language, Kannada

	<u>Final Project</u>	<u>Journals/Blog</u>	<u>Participation</u>
Outcome #1	X	X	X
Outcome #2	X	X	X
Outcome #3	X	X	X
Outcome #4	X	X	X
Outcome #5	X	X	X
Outcome #6	X	X	
Outcome #7			X

Texts, Readings, Materials

Shanbhag, Vivek (2017). Ghachar Ghochar. Penguin Books, New York.
{English Translation by Srinath Perur.}

Prahalad, C. K. (2006). *The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*. Pearson Education India.

*Additional readings will be added on moodle.

Course Requirements

30%	Journals or Blog on readings, lectures, field trips and everyday observations.
30%	Active participation and attendance at all required activities (lectures, language classes, films, field excursions, etc).
40%	Final Project

Grading Policy

A-Range	Student demonstrated superior analytical abilities in all her/his assignments. Student carefully read all relevant material and provided both a clear understanding of what s/he has read and provided insightful analyses and thoughtful critiques. Moreover, the topic under study was explored fully.
B-Range	Student demonstrated an above average analytical ability. Student was able to provide a clear understanding of the material and some insights and critiques. The topic under study was explored fairly thoroughly.
C-Range	Student could demonstrate average analytical ability. Student was unable to provide a clear understanding of the material and offered few insights and critiques. The topic under study was not explored fully.
D-Range	Student completed assignments but could not provide any analytical ability. Student was unable to provide a clear understanding of the material and offered no insights and critiques. The topic was explored minimally.
Fail	Student did not complete assignments.

A	94+	B-	83 – 80	D+	69 – 67
A-	90 – 93	C+	79 – 77	D	66 – 63
B+	87 – 89	C	76 – 74	F	59 – 0
B	86 – 84	C-	73 – 70		

Attendance Policy

Given the particular nature of the course, attendance is mandatory. 2.5% points will be deducted from the final earned grade for each absence.

College policy states that students must notify faculty within the first three weeks of the semester

if they anticipate missing any classes due to religious observance.

Electronic Forms of Communication

In accordance with College policy, I will use your Ramapo College email address (@ramapo.edu) to communicate with you about all course-related matters. Additional readings will be made available through Moodle.

Policy on Academic Integrity

“Students are expected to read and understand Ramapo College’s academic integrity policy, which can be found online in the *College Catalog*. Members of the Ramapo College community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Students who violate this policy will be required to meet with the faculty member and/or will be referred to the Office of the Provost.” This policy will be strictly enforced. No exceptions will be made, and the Office of the Provost will be notified in ALL cases.

Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability that has been documented with the Office of Specialized Services, please make an appointment.