

**Indian Culture and Society**  
 Ramapo College of New Jersey

<b>Course Information</b>	
INTD-201	
<b>Credit Hours</b>	4
<b>Semester / Year</b>	
<b>Class Meeting Date/Time</b>	Roughly M-F 9 to 1 PM for 4 weeks; see schedule below
<b>Fulfills</b>	General Education: Global Awareness

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to contemporary Indian life and culture. It provides a scaffold for the subsequent courses on sustainable development and social movements that comprise of the India Study Abroad semester program. The course will also serve as a springboard for many field study project ideas. Through a combination of readings, lectures, films, field study experiences, reflection journals, and assignments, students will gain foundational knowledge about contemporary India and its complex and often contradictory contexts. 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.

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. Through this course, students will explore the key facets of modern Indian life and culture – social structures, economic issues, geographic constraints, and religious and philosophical traditions. By studying the political, social, cultural and religious history (from pre-colonial to postcolonial times) and the varied geography of the subcontinent, students will gain a framework for understanding Indian civilization and Be able to relate this knowledge to the political, social and economic challenges in modern Indian society.

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 first course, followed by practice sessions on the Fireflies campus and through trips to local markets and villages.

**General Education Program Course**

This course meets the requirements of the General Education: Global Awareness 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 global in content, context, and delivery. In addition, through readings and discussions, students are able to bring this global content

**Course Goals and Objectives**

**Objective 1:** Examine social and political structures in contemporary India

1. Provide students with tools for understanding cultural practices, values and norms from a historical perspective and as they apply in contemporary India.
2. Provide a structured way for students to reflect on their intercultural experiences in India.

**Objective 2:** Understand diverse communities on local, national, and/or global levels.

1. Demonstrate understanding of the intersections of issues that affect diverse communities in their local, national, and/or global contexts.
2. Apply various perspectives when analyzing topics related to diverse local, national, and/or global communities.

**Objective 3:** Demonstrate intercultural understanding required to effectively negotiate a diverse global society.

1. Identify and question ethnocentric assumptions.
2. Understand cultural relativism and different concepts of culture.
3. Demonstrate skills helpful in effectively negotiating a diverse global society.

**Objective 4:** Critically engage with the products of culture, through interpretation or creative expression.

1. Critically interpret a cultural product.

**Measurable Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

Objective	Outcome	Journals	Research Paper. Experiential Learning, and Class Journals	Class Participation (Mapping exercise)
1 Demonstrate intercultural understanding required to effectively negotiate a diverse global society.	1. Identify and question ethnocentric assumptions.	X	X	X
	2. Understand cultural relativism and different concepts of culture.	X	X	X
	3. Demonstrate skills helpful in effectively negotiating a diverse global society	X	X	X
2 Critically engage with the products of culture, through interpretation or creative	1. Critically interpret a cultural product.			X

expression.				
3 Understand diverse communities on local, national, and/or global levels.	1. Demonstrate understanding of the intersections of issues that affect diverse communities in their local, national, and/or global contexts.		x	X
	2. Apply various perspectives when analyzing topics related to diverse local, national, and/or global communities.		X	X
Objective 4: Examine social and political structures in contemporary India	1. Provide students with tools for understanding cultural practices, values and norms from a historical perspective and as they apply in contemporary India.	X	X	X
	2. Provide a structured way for students to reflect on their intercultural experiences in India.	X	X	X

**Texts, Readings, Materials**

**Books:**

Giridharadas, Anand (2011) India Calling. Times Books. *(Must be completed by the time of arrival at Fireflies)*  
 Ananthamurthy, U.R. (1978) Samskara. Oxford Press.

**Articles:**

Embree, Ainslee "Religion" in DeVotta, ed. Understanding Contemporary India, 2cd ed. Lynne Rienner, 2010.  
 Pingle, Vibha "Caste" in Ganguly and DeVotta, eds. Understanding Contemporary India. Lynne Rienner, 2003  
 Sharma, S. "Indian Politics" in DeVotta, ed. Understanding Contemporary India, 2cd ed. Lynne Rienner, 2010.  
 Varshney, Ashutosh. India's Democratic Challenge. *Foreign Affairs*, 86:2, p. 93. March/April 2007.  
 Crabtree, Robbin and Sheena Malholtra. (2003). Media Hegemony and the Commercialization of Television in India: Implications to Social Class and Development Communication. In Artz and Kamalipour (Eds.) The Globalization of Corporate Media Hegemony. SUNY.

Reddy, Vanita (2006). The Nationalization of the Global Indian Woman. South Asian Popular Culture, 4:1, 61-85.

\*Additional articles in reader (see reading schedule below)

**Course Requirements**

30%	Journals on readings, lectures, fieldtrips and experiences. 2 papers of 5 pages each to be submitted weekly. (See assignment sheets)
30%	Active participation and attendance at all required events (lectures, language classes, films, field excursions, ethnographic mapping exercise etc).
40%	Final essay on key themes in the course (8-10 pages)

**Grading Policy**

<b>A-Range</b>	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>B-Range</b>	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.
<b>C-Range</b>	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.
<b>D-Range</b>	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.
<b>Fail</b>	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 with me.

**Journal Assignment Guidelines**

This assignment is worth 30% of your grade for this course. Journals will be **due by 11:55pm on each due date** for a total of three submissions during the first course.

Details will be provided in a separate journal assignment sheet.

**Draft Schedule for Course #1**

**Program & Course Calendar**

Date	Time	Topic	Lecturer / Facilitator	Assignments / Notes
05 January, Tuesday	4:35pm	Depart JFK Airport, Emirates Flight #0208	Reading of Giridharadas, Anand (2011) <u>India Calling</u> . Times Books.	

			<i>(Must be completed by the time of arrival at Fireflies)</i>	
06 January, Wednesday	2:05pm	Arrive Dubai Airport		
	9:50pm	Depart Dubai Airport, Emirates Flight #0568		
07 January, Thursday	2:55am	Arrival (Bangalore International Airport) – 11 total passengers Emirates Flight #0568		
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>				
07 January, Thursday		Fireflies Campus Tour	Fireflies Team, RCNJ Resident Program Assistant & Ruma Sen	<b>Discussion: India Calling</b>
	05:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Welcome Ceremony		
	06:00 pm – 08:00 pm	Fireflies and Pipal Tree – An Introduction & Overview		
08 January, Friday	9am – 12pm	Orientation – Part I (Kelly O'Dowd, Resident Program Manager)		
	2:00 – 6:00pm	Group #1: Introduction to Bangalore (Jayanagar Market, Desi Women's Cooperative) Group #2: Visit to Vodafone office for SIM connection. Students need to bring passport size photographs		<b>India Calling</b>
09 January, Saturday	9am – 12pm	Orientation to Indian Culture Orientation – Part II (Oamjie)	Fireflies Team, RCNJ Resident Program Assistant & Ruma Sen	<b>Finish Reading India Calling</b>
	02:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Group #1: Visit to Vodafone office for SIM connection. Students need to bring passport size photographs Group #2: Introduction to Bangalore (Jayanagar Market, Desi Women's Cooperative)		

<b>COURSE - I: INDIAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY</b>				
<b>MODULE - I: CONTEXTUALISING INDIAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY</b>				
10 January, Sunday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	Understanding Contemporary India: Culture, Economy and Politics /Discussion of India Calling	Ruma Sen	<b>Read Guha; Thapar</b>
	02:00 pm – 04:00 pm	Learning Kannada #1	Shalini S. K.	
11 January, Monday	09:30 am - 1:00 pm	India: Colonization and Post-Colonial Politics (History)	Ruma Sen	<b>Read Sharma</b>
	2:00 – 4:00pm	Reading Time / Discussion of India Calling		
	7:00 – 9:00pm	<a href="#">Films: ZNMD</a>	Ruma Sen	
<b>MODULE – II: SOCIAL STRUCTURES</b>				
12 January, Tuesday	Ethnographic Mapping Exercise: Commercial Street (Susan Hangen) / Break			
13 January, Wednesday	09:30 am – 12:30 pm	Caste	Chandan Gowda	<b>Read Pingle &amp; Viramma</b>
	02:00 pm - 04:00 pm	Learning Kannada #2	Shalini S. K.	
14 January, Thursday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	Kinship and Gender	Susan Hangen	<b>Read Trivedi; Kapur; Wadley</b>
	03:00 pm – 04:00pm	Indian Cinema – Bollywood and beyond	Ruma Sen	
15 January, Friday	07:00pm – 09:00pm	<a href="#">Film: Haider and My Kashmir</a>	Ruma Sen	<b>Reading Journal Due</b>
	09:30 am - 11:00 am	Research Methods	Susan Hangen	
	11:30 am - 01:00 pm	Orientation to the H.D. Kote Field Visit	Susan Hangen, Siddhartha, Veena Pai, Ananda & Shalini	
	06:00 pm - 07:30	<a href="#">Documentary Film: The Bee, The Bear and</a>		

	pm	the Kuruba		
16 January, Saturday	07:00 am	Leave for Pipal Tree field programme area, Kabini via Mysore Demographics, Social Structure and Culture of Tribal Communities – Kikkeri Narayan	Susan Hangen, RCNJ Resident Program Assistant, Veena Pai, Shalini S.K.	
	06:00 - 07:00 pm	Reach Blue Waters by 4 Interaction with Somanna, a Tribal leader		
17 January, Sunday	07:30am – 01:00pm	Visit to a adivasi children's group in the forest (a <i>Pipal Tree programme</i> for developing leadership among adivasi children)	Susan Hangen, Pipal Tree Field Team (Veena Pai)	
	03:15 pm - 06:30 pm	Safari through the Nagarhole forest (batch 1)		
18 January, Monday	07:30am – 11:30am	Visit to an adivasi village in the forest and Interaction with community/ adivasi women	Pipal Tree Field Team	
	Afternoon/Evening	Safari through the Nagarhole forest (batch 2)		
	06:30 pm - 07:30 pm	Interaction with the children at the Children's College		
19 January, Tuesday	09:00 am - 10:30 am	Discussion with farmers group – millet campaign (a <i>Pipal Tree Program</i> )		
	1:00 pm - 06:30 pm	Krac-a-Dawna	Julie and Vivek	
20 January, Wednesday	09:00 am	Leave for Fireflies via Mysore (Chamundi Temple/Tipu's palace/Mysore Palace)		
21 January, Thursday	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Evaluation of the Field Trip	Susan Hangen, RCNJ Resident Program Assistant	



22 January, Friday	09:30 am - 11:00 am	Discussion on U.R. Ananthamurthy's Novel, 'SAMSKARA: A Rite for a Dead Man'	K.R. Usha	<b>Read: Samskara</b>
	11:30 am - 01:00 pm	Women's Writings in India		<b>Read: 'Women in Surabhi' and 'Faith'</b>
	03:00 pm - 04:00 pm	Learning Kannada #3	Shalini SK	
	7:00 – 9:00pm	SCREENING (film: Gulab Gang)		
23 January, Saturday	Break			
24 January, Sunday	Break			
25 January, Monday	09:30 am – 12:00pm	Field Trip to FEDINA – Domestic workers	Oamjie & RCNJ RPM	<b>Excursion Journal due</b>
	03:00 pm - 04:00 pm	Learning Kannada #4	Shalini SK	
	7:00 – 9:00pm	SCREENING (Film: Queen)		
<b>MODULE – III: RELIGIONS</b>				
26 January, Tuesday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	The Life Affirming Dimension of Hinduism	Siddhartha	<b>Read: Open Source Hinduism</b>
	05:00 pm	Film: Dharm		
27 January, Wednesday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	Christianity and Ecology	George Zachariah	<b>Read: Rethinking festivals</b>
	Afternoon	Visit to the Art of Living Ashram	Pipal Tree team	
28 January, Thursday	Break			
29 January, Friday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	Islam and the Muslim minority in India	Maqbool Siraj	<b>Read: TBD</b>
	05:30 pm	Film: Parzania		
30 January, Saturday	Writing day			
31 January, Sunday	09:30 am - 01:00 pm	Meeting to Reflect on Essays and Course - I	Siddhartha, Oamjie, RCNJ RPM	<b>Reading Journal Due / Essays for Course - I Due</b>

01 February, Monday	Break	
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