



2011 JANUARY TERM ABROAD

Religions and Cultures of India: Hinduism, Islam & Eastern Christianity

January 2-28, 2011

Itinerary

Twin Cities Departure	01/02	Periyakulam/Madurai	01/19
En Route	01/03	Madurai/Kumbakonam	01/21
Cochin/Kottayam Arrival	01/04	Kumbakonam/Mahabalipuram	01/25
Kottayam/Thekkady	01/10	Mahabalipuram/Chennai Departure	01/27
Thekkady/Periyakulam	01/13	Chennai/Twin Cities	01/28

T3715

Price: \$5,295 - 5,595*

After his lengthy travels in India, Mark Twain wrote "this is indeed India; the land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and fabulous poverty, of splendor and rags, of palaces and hovels, ... , the country of a hundred nations and a hundred tongues, of a thousand religions and two million gods, cradle of the human race, birthplace of human speech, mother of history, ... , the one land that all men desire to see." Some of Twain's words were an exaggeration, but India is a land of incredible variety and diversity, making it one of the most fascinating places on earth. This course will explore India's religious pluralism, focusing especially on Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. While it is commonly known that India gave birth to Hinduism, is home to some of the oldest Christian communities in the world, the Syrian churches of Kerala. Several centuries later, Muslims arrived through the spice trade and later arrivals ruled India for centuries.

The course will take place in the southernmost states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In Kerala we will visit villages brimming with temples, churches, and mosques. In Tamil Nadu we will stay at three of the great "temple towns" and will enter deep into Indian ways by living for six days with families. We will visit the important cities of Kochi, Madurai, Kumbakonam, and Mahabalipuram but the majority of the course will take place among plantations, hills, backwater towns, and sugar cane fields. Through these experiences students will gain a strong sense of the religious fabric of the world, becoming aware of diverse religions and diversity within religions. Further, they will learn a variety of positive ways in which Christians, Muslims, and Hindus have approached religious differences.

Comprehensive Fee Includes: Transportation and course arrangements as indicated, hotel & guesthouse accommodations in single, twin and triple rooms; host family accommodations in Periyakulam; breakfast, lunch and dinner daily; Indian visa and processing. (subject to change)

Prerequisites: A minimum of one course in theology or religious studies. Ideally this would be in Christianity, for the course will presume a strong academic background in Christianity. Two courses are recommended. For UST students, Theology 101 and a 200-level Theology courses are required. Some Justice and Peace Studies courses would also be appropriate prerequisites.

Required Readings:

Tharoor, Shashi. *India: From Midnight to the Millenium*.
Miller, Barabara (trans.). *Bhagavad-Gita*.
Booklet of readings

Evaluation:

Test	40%
Journal	30%
Quizzes	20%
Participation	10%

*Each home institution may have supplementary fees in addition to the price listed.

Entry Requirements: A visa is required for all U.S. Citizens to travel to India. A passport, a drivers license or state ID, a birth certificate copy and two passport quality photos will be required to obtain the visa.

The goal of this course is to experience Indian culture from the inside, not as outside observers, so students should assess their adaptability to new environments. We will often be experiencing crowds, dust, noise, walks, and thin mattresses. Also, we will be eating Indian food (special dietary needs cannot always be accommodated), following Indian manners and customs, and wearing Indian (but modernized) clothing. Students should contact Dr. Ulrich with any questions or concerns

Edward Ulrich, Ph.D., University of St. Thomas
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Dr. Ulrich, professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas, has studied India since childhood and holds a Ph.D. specializing in the comparative study of Hindu and Christian thought. He taught world religions courses at St. Thomas for the past ten years, attended the 2004 NEH Summer Seminar on India, and published five scholarly articles involving India, and one book chapter on interreligious dialogue. Since 2005 he has taken four trips to India. This will be his third time leading this UMAIE course in India.

Dr. Harry is an adjunct professor of History at the University of St. Thomas. She specializes in the comparative history of East and West and social history, and has taught World History at St. Thomas since 2003. Dr. Harry has long experience teaching world history, with an emphasis on social and cultural (rather than political or military) history. Thus, her knowledge of world history (including the history of India) is quite broad and deep. She has long been interested in the history and culture of India, particularly in the indigenous religions of India, the history and legacy of British Imperialism, and the position of women in Indian society.



UPPER MIDWEST ASSOCIATION FOR INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

www.umaie.org

RULES AND PROCEDURES

NEW ORIENTATION PROCESS. SEE COURSE ORIENTATION SECTION BELOW.

Since 1964, UMAIE has offered unique opportunities for cross-cultural study during January Term and starting in 2005, May/June Term. UMAIE, a consortium of colleges and universities, cooperates to provide the educational depth and resources necessary for an intercultural curriculum.

This year UMAIE offers courses in many locations around the world including: The Americas (North), Europe (Western, Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern), India, South Africa and Turkey.

APPLICATION AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS — Applications and required documents are available via the UMAIE website (www.umaie.org). Applications are accepted between **April 16 - October 4, 2010**. When applying for a course, please submit the following to your campus UMAIE Board Member:

- Three copies of your completed application.
- One copy of your valid passport photo & signature page OR if you do not have a passport, a copy of your passport application. (Actual submittal of your passport application to a passport agency is not required until acceptance into a course. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>.)
- One copy of your January Term Abroad Agreement.
- One copy of your unofficial transcript.
- One deposit check in the amount of **\$400** made payable to **Seminars International, Inc.** (All checks will be cashed upon receipt. Returned checks will be assessed a service charge of **\$50**.)

*UST students please see your study abroad website (www.stthomas.edu/studyabroad) for application procedures.

No application will be considered without **ALL** the required signed documents, copies and deposit as listed above. If you have any questions please contact your campus UMAIE Board Member.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR APPLICANTS — Faculty Directors will review and screen each application to ensure all prerequisites are met, and that equal access is given to students from all consortium schools. **For applications received by April 16th, the UMAIE Secretariat will notify each participant via e-mail by May 7, 2010**, to inform if applicant is: 1) accepted into the course; 2) on a waiting list; 3) not accepted into the course. Please be aware that if you are placed on a waiting list, your deposit check will still be cashed upon receipt. In the event a course is filled or cancelled due to low enrollment, students are contacted regarding a second choice. Students who choose not to transfer to another course will receive a full refund. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND IMMUNIZATIONS — All applicants must send a copy of a valid and signed passport to their campus UMAIE Board Member upon acceptance into a UMAIE course (if one was not turned in with application). **Passports must be valid at least six (6) months beyond your return date.**

If your course requires a visa it will be stated in the course description. A country specific visa application will be sent to you 1-2 months prior to departure.

Information regarding recommended and/or needed immunizations can be found at the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/travel/. If you are traveling to a destination that requires an immunization, the UMAIE Secretariat will inform you in a timely manner. Additional information regarding passports, visas and immunizations is available from your campus UMAIE Board Member.

COMPREHENSIVE FEE — Per person course prices are based on a minimum enrollment for each course. Every effort is made to operate the program at the stated price range. However, if fewer students enroll, costs may be increased or the course cancelled. **NOTE:** UMAIE reserves the right to adjust prices due to dollar devaluation, fuel surcharges and general inflation.

The comprehensive fee includes round-trip air transportation from Minneapolis-St. Paul to the course location; airport transfers; visas (where required for U.S. citizens who meet the visa application deadline and have the correct accompanying documentation); transportation to most course activities while abroad; lodging, primarily in twin or triple rooms in hotels, pensions, university dormitories, or family homes (where indicated); continental

breakfast daily (exceptions noted on individual course descriptions) and other meals as indicated; tickets for required cultural performances; planned excursions; and administrative costs (however, individual institutions may assess additional charges). **When rail passes or entrance fees are included, they are based on the utilization of youth rates (25 years or under), and a valid University ID will be required to be presented at the entrance. Any additional amount incurred will be the participant's responsibility.**

EXCLUSIONS — Personal expenses are the responsibility of each individual participant. Examples include but are not limited to: passport fees; airline checked baggage fees; excess baggage fees; local public transportation; departure taxes (except U.S.); optional entertainment and excursions; beverages, including those available at group meals; individual room service charges; travel insurance; porter's fees; laundry and dry cleaning; telephone and fax; personal gratuities; transportation to and from the course departure city.

FINAL PAYMENT — Accepted applicants are notified of the final price during the last week of October. Students at Gustavus Adolphus College will bring their final payment to their International Education Office on or before Monday, November 1. Students from Elmhurst College will bring their final payment to their Student Accounts Office before Monday, November 1. Students from all other institutions will have their fees billed to their student account.

WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

- No cancellation fee for students withdrawing on or before **September 15, 2010**.
- A **\$400** cancellation fee is withheld for students who withdraw between **September 16 and November 1, 2010**.
- A refund for cancellations occurring after **November 1, 2010** is based upon recoverable costs. The **ENTIRE COURSE COST** may be forfeited.
- **If cancellation occurs 30 days or less prior to departure, there will be no refund. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended for students with pre-existing medical conditions.** This insurance must be purchased at the time of registration. Please discuss this with your UMAIE Campus Board Member.
- If a course price increases by more than 6% (due to general inflation or lower enrollment) a student may cancel without penalty.
- No refund is given to students who wish to omit portions of the course.
- **NOTICE OF CANCELLATION MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO YOUR CAMPUS UMAIE BOARD MEMBER.**

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS — are secured by Seminars International, Inc., 33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1160, Chicago, IL 60603-5303, (800) 541-7506, TRAVEL@semint.com. Applications are processed by the Minnesota office, 21530 Vernon Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372, (952) 440-1338, kathy@semint.com. Participants desiring additional information may contact Seminars International Inc., or visit their website - www.semint.com.

COURSE ORIENTATION — will include an on-line exam during the month of October; a webinar on-line meeting in November and an in-country orientation session upon arrival at your first destination. **PARTICIPATION IS MANDATORY.**

DEVIATIONS — Course prices are based on group air arrangements. The air carrier may assess a service fee for individual changes. Not all airlines allow deviations on group reservations. In addition to the airline service fee(s), an additional fee must be paid to Seminars International, Inc. as follows: before **October 4, 2010 the charge is \$75; from October 5, 2010 until November 1, 2010 the charge is \$125. After November 1, 2010, no deviations will be accepted.** Deviation requests must be made in writing to the Chicago Seminars International office via fax (312) 332-5509 or email TRAVEL@semint.com. Once the deviation has been booked, any changes may incur additional costs. Students who deviate are responsible for providing their own transportation to or from the actual course location abroad.

Faculty Directors are not expected to provide assistance. Students from Augustana College and Elmhurst College will receive further information on possible connecting flights upon acceptance.

UMAIE MAY CANCEL COURSES DUE TO:

- Low enrollment
- Faculty withdrawal
- Travel warnings issued by the U.S. Department of State

CAMPUS UMAIE BOARD MEMBERS

Augustana College, Global Education Office, (605) 274-5050, donn.grinager@augie.edu • Elmhurst College, Office of International Education, (630) 617-3341, wally@elmhurst.edu • Gustavus Adolphus College, Center for International and Cultural Education, (507) 933-7546, lshaw@gac.edu • St. Catherine University, Global Studies Office, (651) 690-6031, rdecampeau@stkate.edu • University of St. Thomas, International Education Office, (651) 962-6450, international@stthomas.edu
UMAIE SECRETARIAT: *Kathy Willemsen*, (952) 440-1338, kathy@semint.com