

## Syllabus

Maymester ASIA 1857 / May 2018

Dr. Elliott McCarter

### Living Languages and Cultures of India

(AXLE INT)

#### Course Description and Objectives:

India is a nation with rich linguistic and cultural diversity, making it an ideal location to address questions of difference and person-to-person tactics of negotiating difference in everyday life. This course will guide students through three cities of India as urban expressions of distinct regional cultures: Jaipur, Lucknow, and Chandigarh. Through this immersion in a connected landscape of variety, students will reflect upon the meaning and usefulness of traditional categories that define people in Indian cultures and their own.

Students will gain daily instruction in language appropriate to their level in a classroom setting at the American Institute for Indian Studies (AIIS) language schools in the respective cities; instructors will be available for all levels of learners. The course will begin in Jaipur with the study of Hindi and move to Lucknow for exposure to the closely related Urdu language. This shift will allow students to observe the continuities in the two languages as well as the formal differences and linguistic drift observable at all levels. The course will then briefly enter Chandigarh to provide contrast with the nearby Punjabi language that overlaps in this region with both Hindi and Urdu. While this short amount of time is insufficient to acquire a high level of proficiency in any language, students will make language progress and interact in the local language each day. The AIIS language schools will provide instructors and materials for each level.

Accompanying the language instruction, students will interact with local guest speakers from diverse backgrounds and participate in local excursions to historical and religious sites, commercial centers, rural areas, NGO's, and private homes. Students will engage with issues of local and global concern through these dialogues (in English).

**Fees are \$9,950.** Fees and dates are subject to change. Accepted Students must commit by February 12th in the GEO application - Studio Abroad to retain their place on the course roster. We anticipate a wait list of students wishing to join this course, thus the importance of committing as soon as you are accepted. This course being offered is contingent upon enrolling at least 14 qualified students by the end of January 2018.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** For information on scholarships administered by the Global Education Office, consult GEO: [www.vanderbilt.edu/studyabroad](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/studyabroad).

#### Required Texts:

Level appropriate language learning materials will be provided to each student at the AIIS Language Institutes.

#### Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory for all classroom sessions, guest speakers, and excursions.

#### Daily Journal and Vlog:

Students are required to keep a daily journal of their thoughts, reflections, and experiences and submit it at the end of the program. In addition to a reflection in English, students will record their language learning each day (e.g., new script, vocabulary, grammar, literature). Additionally, students will also

keep a video log that also records their spoken language learning experience. In this Vlog, students will recount each day a spoken exchange they had in the target language.

**Final Presentation and Paper:**

Students will integrate their learning and observations on the program by writing a five-page paper on their insights into Indian culture containing specific examples from their trip. Additionally, students will prepare a 10-15 minute presentation on the same.

**Language Portfolio:**

No language knowledge is prerequisite for this course. Prior to departure, students' language level will be assessed and recorded (this also serves the purpose of ensuring that materials are properly prepared). A similar assessment will be conducted and recorded at the end of the course prior to departure. In the final assessment, students should display a relative increase in their level of proficiency. A true beginner, for example, will be expected to have acquired a novice-low level of proficiency in interpersonal communication whereas an advanced student will be expected to demonstrate more complex linguistic forms and vocabulary acquisition in target areas. In the portfolio, students will add to their assessments any additional materials that reflect their language achievements (e.g., photographs of linguistic landscape, relevant vlog entries, translations, etc.). The portfolio will contain a short description of its contents and a reflection on the student's individual language learning.

**Course Assessment:**

Attendance, Participation, and Discussion:	20%
Journal:	15%
Vlog:	15%
Final Paper:	15%
Final Presentation:	15%
Language Portfolio:	20%

**Special Needs:**

By February 1, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting documentation prepared by the Disability Services Program (DSP). Students should contact the DSP at (615) 322-4705 (V/TTD). More information is available on the office's website at [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/ds\\_students.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/ds_students.html) .

**Academic Honesty:**

Be careful not to copy the work of peers or to use material without proper attribution. Nothing can be more disastrous for your grade or for your college record than to be found to have violated the university's rules on academic honesty. Students who violate these rules are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course or dismissal from the university or both. Please refer to the Vanderbilt Honor Code, [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student\\_handbook/the-honor-system/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/the-honor-system/).

If you have any questions about properly utilizing sources or other potential violations, please check with the instructor.

### **Course Schedule:**

**Outline of travel dates:** **May 6:** Arrive at New Delhi airport and transfer as a group to domestic flight to Jaipur; arrive in Jaipur. **May 12:** Ground transportation (private bus or jeep) to Agra. **May 13:** Overnight train (three tier AC) to Lucknow. **May 20:** Flight from Lucknow to Delhi. **May 22:** Ground transportation (private bus or jeep) to Chandigarh via Kurukshetra. **May 25:** Ground transportation (private bus or jeep) to Gurugram (in New Delhi Capital Region) **May 26:** Ground transportation (taxi or private car) to New Delhi airport; depart for US. **Note:** While traveling in private cars, jeeps, buses, or taxis, all students will be accompanied by faculty or staff at a ratio of no greater than 6 students per faculty or staff member. While in train compartments, the ratio will be 5:1 with a staff member occupying a seat in each six-person berth.

1. Arrive in Jaipur, Student Orientation and Assessment  
7:00-9:00 Welcome Dinner
2. Monday  
9-10: Language Instruction  
10:00-10:30: Tea  
10:30-12: Local Market Guided Language Practice  
12-1: Lunch at Institute  
1-2: Guest Lecture: Clothing Traditions and Village Industry  
2-3: Language Instruction and Consolidation  
3:00 - 3:30: Tea  
3:30 – 5:00: Zero Hours  
5:00 – 7:00: Personal Time  
7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
3. 9-10: Language Instruction  
10:00-10:30: Tea  
10-12: Guided Language Practice: Old City Market  
12-1: Lunch at Institute  
1-2: Language Instruction and Consolidation  
2-3: Zero Hours  
3:00 - 3:30: Tea

- 3:30 - 5:00: Refresh time
- 5:00 – 7:00: Old City Market additional exploration
- 7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
4. 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Albert Hall
- 12-1: Lunch at Institute
- 1-2: Language Instruction and Consolidation
- 2-3: Guest Lecture: Local History
- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 - 5:00: Zero Hours
- 5:00 – 7:00: Cultural Performance: Rajasthani Dance
- 7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
5. 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: City Palace
- 12-1: Lunch at Institute
- 1-2: Language Instruction and Consolidation
- 2-3: Guest Lecture: Jyotish (Astrologer)
- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 - 5:00: Zero Hours
- 5:00 – 7:00: Personal Time
- 7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
6. 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Jantar Mantar (premodern observatory)
- 12-1: Lunch at Institute
- 1-2: Language Instruction and Consolidation
- 2-3: Personal time

- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 - 7:00: Movie Outing
- 7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
7. Saturday Excursion to Amer Fort. Leave for Agra
8. Visit Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri
- Overnight train to Lucknow
9. Arrive Lucknow
- 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Hazrat Ganj
- 12-1: Lunch at Institute
- 1-2: Language Instruction and Consolidation
- 2-3: Guest Speaker: Calligrapher
- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 - 7:00: Personal Time
- 7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
10. 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Bada Imambara/Chota Imambara
- 12-1: Lunch at Tunday
- 1-3: Continued Guided Practice, return to institute
- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 – 5:00: Personal Time
- 5:00 – 9:00: Visit to Indian Family home and Dinner
11. 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Gol Market
- 12-1: Lunch at institute
- 1-2: Language instruction and consolidation

- 2-3: Guest Speaker: Women's Industry NGO  
3:00 - 3:30: Tea  
3:30 – 5:00: Zero hours  
5:00 – 7:00: Personal Time  
7:00 – 9:00: Group Dinner
12. 9-10: Language Instruction  
10:00-10:30: Tea  
10-12: Guided Language Practice: Sanatkada/Seva  
12-1: Lunch at Dastarkwhan  
1-2: Language instruction and consolidation  
1-3: Continued practice, return to institute  
3:00 - 3:30: Tea  
3:30 – 5:00: Zero hours  
5:00 – 9:00: Qawwali Performance and Dinner
13. 9-10: Language Instruction  
10:00-10:30: Tea  
10-12: Guided Language Practice: Residency  
12-1: Lunch at Institute  
1-2: Language instruction and consolidation  
2-3: Guest Speaker: Poetry  
3:00 - 3:30: Tea  
3:30 - 5:00: Personal Time  
5:00 – 9:00: Outing to film and Dinner
14. Saturday Excursion: Residency
15. Sunday Excursion to Kakori Sharif and Mango grove; P.M. flight to Delhi
16. Delhi Tour (Red Fort via India Gate, Janpath, Rajpath, etc.)
17. Travel to Kurukshetra, Jyotisar, (Lecture on cultural geography by Dr. McCarter), Chandigarh
18. 9-10: Language Instruction  
10:00-10:30: Tea

- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Rock Garden/Corbusier Centre
- 12-1: Lunch at Institute
- 1-2: Language instruction and consolidation
- 2-3: Guest Speaker: Health and Medicine
- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 - 5:00: Personal Time
- 5:00 – 9:00: Outing to film and Dinner
- 19. 9-10: Language Instruction
- 10:00-10:30: Tea
- 10-12: Guided Language Practice: Rock Garden/Corbusier Centre
- 12-1: Lunch at Institute
- 1-2: Language instruction and consolidation
- 2-3: Guest Speaker: Sustainable Agriculture
- 3:00 - 3:30: Tea
- 3:30 - 5:00: Personal Time
- 5:00 – 9:00: Evening Cultural Performance and dinner
- 20. Travel to Gurugram, Visit to AIIS headquarters, Final Assessment and Evening Party at DLF Place
- 21. Depart for US