

ITRN 702 Southeast Asia and India Study Abroad Program Spring 2011

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Overview:

Asia houses the world's largest population and some of the fastest growing economies in the world. While much has been said and written about China, one cannot ignore the dynamic Southeast Asian sub-region as well as India in South Asia. Southeast Asia consists of eleven countries that are geographically south of China and east of India -- Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Like China, India is rapidly globalizing its economy and taking steps to integrate with Southeast Asia. India also shares many cultural and historical links with its Southeast Asian neighbors.

The SPP Asia Study Abroad program focuses on India and the most developed Southeast Asian country, viz. Singapore. Singapore is the financial and commercial hub of Southeast Asia and is also becoming a favored headquarter for many Indian businesses eager to expand overseas. The rapid evolution of Singapore from a modest trading post under colonial rule to a modern, prosperous, self-confident and sovereign nation must rank as among the more notable success stories of the second half of the 20th century. The opening up of the Indian economy and its rapid integration with the rest of Asia as well as global economy has generated a great deal of interest on the country. While India continues to struggle with issues relating to poverty and governance, its growth since 2000 has been one of the highest in the world and over the medium and longer terms India is in a demographic gift phase, reflected in rising working age population to total population ratio. This stands in sharp contrast to many developed countries where the ratio has already begun to decline. If India successfully harnesses this supply-side potential she should be able to grow rapidly on a sustained basis over the next few decades and become a far more important player in the global economy.

Unlike a conventional course taken in the classroom, this course will expose students to the sights, smells, and sounds of the countries themselves. Students will hear presentations by leading regional academics and experts, and visit universities, think tanks, enterprises, and cultural landmarks. The course will be an intense learning experience, with constant interaction among the students, GMU course director, and course lecturers and other participants.

Sample Topics:

Politics and governance: Military and politics and growth; Terrorism; System of government; Role of entrepreneurship; Tackling corruption; Religion and society; The role of the state in economic development; The role of values in economic development; The impact of globalization; Foreign direct investment and trade; The tourism sector; Impact of rise of China and India; Growth strategies for small and open economies; Environmental issues; International relations; Openness, media and the Internet; Operating in a multi-cultural environment, Local and Trans-boundary environmental issues; Issues relating to education; Demographic transition, Urbanization, Growth and the environment, Role of women, education and economic development, Financial sector issues.

Suggested Books:

India:

Cohen, S.P., India: Emerging Power

Das, G., India Unbound and The Elephant Paradigm?

Dossani, R., India Arriving.

Guha, R., India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy.

Khilnani, S., The Idea of India.

Luce, E., In Spite of the Gods: The Rise of Modern India.

Nilekani, N., Imagining India: The Idea of a Renewed Nation.

Panagariya, A., India: The Emerging Giant.

Tan, T.Y. (ed.), Socio-Political and Economic Challenges for South Asia.

Taroor, S., India: From Midnight to Millennium.

Singapore:

Dent, C.M., The Foreign Economic Policies of Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Lee, K.Y., From Third World to First: The Singapore Story, 1965-2000.

Mauzy, D.K. and R.S. Milne, Singapore Politics Under the People's Action Party.

Neo, B.S. and G. Chen, Dynamic Governance: Embedding Culture, Capabilities and Change in Singapore.

Peebles, G. and P. Wilson, Economic Growth and Development in Singapore: Past and Future.

Purushotam, N., Negotiating Multiculturalism: Disciplining Difference in Singapore.

Rodan, G., Transparency and Authoritarian Rule in Southeast Asia: Singapore and Malaysia.

Trocki, C.A., Singapore: Wealth, Power and the Culture of Control.

Vasil, R., Governing Singapore: A History of National Development and Democracy.

Assessment:

Students will be graded as follows:

Class participation: 15%. (*Do background readings on the region. Country etc. Resources are plentiful on the web*).

Two Book reviews (1,500 words absolute maximum): 10% each.

Two essays: "Impressions of Singapore" and "Impressions of India" (2,000 words absolute maximum): 12.5% each.

A Research paper on a topic chosen with the approval of Prof. Rajan (5000 words absolute maximum): 40%

The deadline for the Book reviews is February 5. The deadline for both the Impressions essays is March 15. The deadline for the Research paper is April 30. These are strict deadlines that need to be met without exception. I will not be reminding you about these deadlines. Grades in this class have to be earned; they are not an entitlement and neither are they negotiable.

SPP Policy on Plagiarism: The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable. Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined. Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is short-sighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa. To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>)

Special Needs: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

