



2009 JANUARY TERM ABROAD

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

December 30, 2008 - January 24, 2009

Itinerary

Orientation at University of St. Thomas	11/22	Madurai/Thiruvannamalai	01/11
Twin Cities Departure	12/30	Tiruvannamali/Devikapuram	01/13
En route	12/31	Devikapuram/Thiruvannamalai	01/18
Bangalore/Cochin/Anugraha Arrival	01/01	Thiruvannamalai/Mahaballipuram	01/21
Anugraha/Thekkady	01/07	Mahaballipuram/Chennai/Bangalore	01/23
Thekkady/Madurai	01/09	Bangalore/Chennai/Twin Cities	01/24

T3525

Price: \$5,730*

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, it also gave birth to some of the oldest Christian churches in the world, the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara churches. 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, mosques, and synagogues. In Tamil Nadu we will stay at one of the great "temple towns" and will enter deep into Indian ways by living for six days with families. We will also visit the major cities of Kochi, Madurai, and Madras, 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 accommodations in twin and triple rooms, host family arrangements in Devikapuram, three meals daily, Indian visa and processing. (subject to change)

Prerequisites: At UST, students must have completed Theology 101 and a course on the 200 level; students from other institutions must have a minimum of one course in theology or religious studies.

Required Readings: Fisher, Mary Pat. *Living Religions*, 6th edition.
Tharoor, Shashi. *India: From Midnight to the Millennium*.
Booklet of readings.

Evaluation:	
Participation	25%
Quizzes	25%
Journal	25%
Test	25%

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

Entry Requirements: A visa is required for India. Two identical passport quality photos are needed for the visa in addition to the two needed for your passport.

The goal of the 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 deep in the countryside, experiencing dust, crowds, noise, long walks, and thin mattresses. Also, we will be eating Indian food (special dietary needs cannot always be accommodated), following Indian manners and customs, and often wearing Indian (but modernized) clothing. Students should contact the professor for any questions or concerns.

Edward Ulrich, Ph.D., University of St. Thomas

(651) 962-5307, etulrich@stthomas.edu

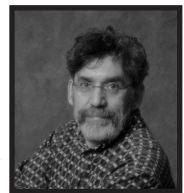
David Penchansky, Ph.D., University of St. Thomas

(651) 962-5371, d9penchansky@stthomas.edu

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 seven years, attended the 2004 NEH Summer Seminar on India, and published four scholarly articles involving India, and one book chapter on interreligious dialogue. He traveled in India for a total of ten weeks in 2005 and 2007. Dr. Ulrich has strong relationships with many Indians, including Dr. Matthew Chandrankunnel of Dharamaram College, Fr. Joseph Pathrapankal of Anugraha Renewal Center, Mr. C.A. Bosco of the GW Tutorial College, and Sr. Superior of Cluny Convent. He led this UMAIE course in 2008. He taught "Christianity and World Religions in Hawaii" with colleagues in 2003, 2005 and 2006.



Dr. Penchansky holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and has extensive experience teaching Judaism and Christianity. Additionally, he is studying Islam and Arabic. His expertise in religious studies (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) will supplement Dr. Ulrich's expertise in Hinduism and Christianity.





UPPER MIDWEST ASSOCIATION FOR INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

www.semint.com/umaie

RULES AND PROCEDURES

For the forty-fourth consecutive year, UMAIE offers unique opportunities for cross-cultural study during January Term and starting in 2005, May/June Term. UMAIE, a consortium of six colleges and universities, cooperates to provide the educational depth and resources necessary for an intercultural curriculum.

This year UMAIE offers courses in the following locations around the world: Antarctica, Australia, Egypt, Europe (Central, Eastern and Western), Hawaii, India, Ireland, Jordan, Mexico, New York, Russia, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

APPLICATION AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS — Applications and required documents are available via the UMAIE website (www.semint.com/umaie). Applications are accepted between **April 15 - October 3, 2008**. When applying for a course, please submit the following to your UMAIE Campus Representative:

- 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 **\$350** made payable to **Seminars International, Inc.** (All checks will be cashed upon receipt. Returned checks will be assessed a service charge of **\$50**.)

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

SELECTION PROCESS FOR APPLICANTS — Faculty Directors will 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 15th, the UMAIE Secretariat will notify each participant via e-mail by May 9, 2008, 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 BE CONSIDERED ONLY ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS AND LATE FEES WILL LIKELY BE APPLIED.**

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND IMMUNIZATIONS — All applicants must send a copy of a valid and signed passport to their UMAIE Campus Representative upon acceptance into a UMAIE course (if one was not turned in with application). This is not required for students travelling to Hawaii or New York. **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 UMAIE Campus Representative.

COMPREHENSIVE FEE — Costs listed are based on planned enrollments for each course. Every effort is made to operate the program at the stated price. However, if fewer students enroll, costs may be increased or the course cancelled. **NOTE:** UMAIE reserves the right to adjust fees 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). Any additional amount incurred will be the participant's responsibility.

EXCLUSIONS — Expenses and items not specifically mentioned herein are not covered, including but not limited to: passport fees; local subway, bus and tram fares (if not included in course price); departure taxes (except U.S.); optional entertainment and excursions; beverages; individual room service charges; travel insurance; porter's fees; laundry and cleaning; telephone and fax; personal gratuities; transportation to and from point of course departure.

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 Friday, November 3. Students from Elmhurst College will bring their final payment to their Student Accounts Office before Friday, November 3. 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 12, 2008**.
- A **\$100** cancellation fee is withheld for students who withdraw between **September 13 and October 3, 2008**.
- Beginning **October 4, 2008** the course deposit of **\$350** is non-refundable.
- A refund for cancellations occurring after **November 3, 2008** 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 Representative.
- 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 UMAIE CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE.**

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.

ORIENTATION SESSION—Will be held **Saturday, November 22, 2008** at the University of St. Thomas. **ALL MUST ATTEND.**

DEVIATIONS — Course prices are based on group air arrangements and the air carrier may assess a service fee. 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 3, 2008 the charge is \$50; from October 4, 2008 until November 3, 2008, the charge is \$100. After November 3, 2008, 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 course flights upon acceptance.

UMAIE CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES

Augustana College, *Dianne Hammrich*, (605) 274-4042 • Elmhurst College, *Alice Niziolek*, (630) 617-3604
Gustavus Adolphus College, *Linda Shaw*, (507) 933-7546 • Hamline University, *Kim Zielinski*, (651) 523-2245
College of St. Catherine, *Global Studies Office*, (651) 690-6031 • University of St. Thomas, *International Education Office*, (651) 962-6450
UMAIE SECRETARIAT: *Kathy Willemssen*, (952) 440-1338, email: kathy@semint.com