Instructors: Prof. Amy Butler, Social Work (amy-c-butler@uiowa.edu) and Prof. Mary Noonan, Sociology (mary-noonan-1@uiowa.edu)

Mr. Cory Petersen, Educational Support Specialist and Advisor, 335-0353, cory-petersen@uiowa.edu

Prof. Raj Rajagopal, Director, India Winterim Program, 319-594-9442, r-rajagopal@uiowa.edu

Course description

The course has two main foci. The first focus is to learn about the multiple challenges faced by poor people in a developing country (i.e., India), especially women and children. The second focus is to visit and learn from a number of innovative Indian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are addressing these issues. We will be based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

We will visit a number of organizations that address women and children’s issues, but students will focus in greater depth on one of the following three NGOs:

1. Women’s Health

   The late diagnosis of cancer and the resulting high cancer death rate is a major problem in India that is being addressed in a number of innovative ways by the Penn Nalam Breast and Cervical Cancer Care Centre.

2. Domestic Violence

   The International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCPV) helps women report instances of violence against them, protect themselves and their children, and if they choose to, leave their partners and achieve both financial and emotional independence. The problems faced by these women include physical beatings, economic and emotional manipulation, sexual violence and coercion, and acid or kerosene burns inflicted by partners or in-laws. PCPV’s goal is to provide and locate resources for women in situations of domestic violence and to validate and respect clients’ ongoing processes of independent decision-making.

3. Women, Education, and Work

   The Association for Non-traditional Employment for Women (ANEW) is an NGO committed to creating a lasting impact on women from underprivileged groups of society, through its philosophy, "educate a woman, you educate a family."
Some of the other organizations we will visit include an innovative school that educates poor children and young adults, organizations that address the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS among sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSMs), and transgender women, and hospice organizations that provide palliative care.

Travel broadens the mind and expands the self. This course provides an opportunity for students to see the world from a different lens on many levels. We will help you understand how to reframe problems and difficulties into challenges and opportunities. You will see the world from an Eastern mindset, from a developing world perspective, from an economic perspective, and from a spiritual perspective.

The course instructors are Amy Butler and Mary Noonan. Amy Butler is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work. She earned an MSW and PhD in Social Work and Sociology at the University of Michigan. She conducts research on poverty, sexual assault, and the effects of social policy on families. She teaches courses on social welfare policy and has led India Winterim courses since 2008. Mary Noonan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology. She earned a MPP and PhD in Sociology at the University of Michigan. Her research examines the relationship between gender, work, and family. She teaches courses on gender inequality, family and quantitative research methods.

Course Requirements

Prior to departure

- Attend orientation meeting(s).
- Watch Gandhi (1982), directed by Richard Attenborough (190 min.). This film won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor.
  - Read:
- During a pre-trip meeting, we will watch Small Fortunes: Microcredit and the Future of Poverty (2005), PBS documentary (1 hour). See their website at http://www.kbyutv.org/programs/smallfortunes/innovations/

During our stay in India

- Attend all planned activities and excursions.
- Attend regular group meetings with the instructor to process experiences.
- Actively engage with our hosts and partner organizations.
- Prepare a paper and presentation of your final project (individual or group) for delivery at a one-day conference in Chennai on January 16. Submit an electronic version of the paper and presentation to Amy Butler/Mary Noonan before returning to Iowa.

- Keep a daily journal.

Follow-up

- Prepare an essay (500-750 words) on the most important aspects of your experience to be turned in to Amy and Mary within 2 weeks of your return.

Course Grades

Grades for the course will be based on the following elements:

- **25%** Active engagement and discussion with fellow students and instructor, our hosts, the sponsoring organization, and the follow-up forum in Iowa City.

- **40%** Project (individual or group) report and presentation.

- **25%** Daily journal: record your thoughts, feelings, ideas, fears, joys, anxieties, insights and experiences. The instructor will keep what you write confidential. Submit to Amy Butler on the last day of the trip.

- **10%** essay on what you have learned.
For more information:

The India Winterim program application is available on the Study Abroad web site (under the “Application” tab): http://study-abroad.uiowa.edu/programs/details/index.php?crse=197#application

The application deadline is Friday, September 27th at 5:00 PM. Applications must be submitted in-person to the Study Abroad office’s front desk in 1111 UCC.

Contact Professor Amy Butler at amy-c-butler@uiowa.edu or stop by her office (333 North Hall) during her office hours (Fall: Tuesday, 1-2:15pm, and Thursday, 10:45-noon). Contact Professor Mary Noonan at mary-noonan-1@uiowa.edu or stop by her office (W121 Seashore Hall) during her office hours (Tuesday and Thursday, 11-12:30 pm).

For information about financial aid possibilities, go to http://international.uiowa.edu/study-abroad/financial-aid and click on either “undergraduate scholarships” or “graduate fellowships.”