University of Iowa 2013-14

165:197 004 International Development
December 27, 2013 - January 18, 2014
Music, Dance, and Culture of India

Instructors: Prof. Alan Sener, Dance (alan-sener@uiowa.edu) and Prof. Trevor Harvey, Music (trevor-harvey@uiowa.edu)
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Course Description

Held in Chennai (Madras), India, this course is a three-week introduction to the origin, history, and development of traditional music, dance and culture of South India. Open to all students, the UI India Winterim program is held concurrently with the Chennai music and dance season—India’s (and one of the world’s) largest music and dance festival, featuring over 1200 performances by more than 600 performers. In addition to opportunities provided by the festival, students will attend special lectures, demonstrations, workshops, and performances by Indian professors and artists. Field trips will be made to performances, museums and important historic sites for South Indian culture, including Puducherry, Mamalapuram, and Tiruvannaamalai. Additionally, the course may include a humanitarian service component, whereby students visit and interact within area schools and/or health clinics.

The course is open to all students regardless of prior musical or dance experience, including beginning through advanced music and dance majors.

Siva Foundation, a leading dance academy situated right at the heart of the city of Chennai, will serve as one of our sponsoring organizations. Its director, Madhavapeddi Murthy, is a world acclaimed dancer in the tradition of classical dance Kuchipudi. Dr. M.A. Bhageerathi of the famous Parur Family of performers will lead a team of musicians to present a series of lectures, demonstrations, workshops, and mini-concerts. Dr. Geetha Rajagopal, Executive Director of Sampradaya, the Center for South Indian Music Traditions located at the world-renown Kalakshetra Foundation, will provide an historical context for the course. Veenapani Chawla, Founder and Artistic Director, of the Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Arts Research, a theatre, music, dance and shadow puppetry troupe and a locus for hybrid performing arts, will be our host during an excursion to Puducherry. Adishakti is the home from which national and international performances, workshops, artist exchanges and research are generated. Also planned is a visit to a Tamil film production company (Kollywood) movie set. Studio Green, produces, releases and distributes films throughout South India.

The UI Faculty Directors for this course are Department of Dance Professor, Alan Sener and UI School of Music Lecturer in Ethnomusicology, Trevor Harvey.

Course Requirements

Your attendance and participation in all planned activities and excursions is essential along with active discussion about your learning process during our group meetings in India. A ten-page assessment paper about your India experience and what you learned will also be due no later than February 1st, 2013. Participation in the UI Winterim Symposium in February 2013 is required (Iowa date TBA).
Course Grading

Grades for the course will be based on your attendance, the extent of your active participation in all the planned activities, classes, group discussion, culminating performances, completion of all readings and viewings, and submission of the final assessment paper.

Course Websites

Kuchipudi Art Academy: http://www.kuchipudi.com/home.cfm
Studio Green: http://www.studiogreen.in
Adishakti Laboratory for Theater Arts Research: http://www.adishaktitheatrearts.com/home.html
Kalashetra: http://www.kalakshetra.net
Bala Devi Chandrashekar: http://www.shreepadmanrityam.org
M.A. Bhageerathi: http://www.sabhash.com/artist/42/dr.-m.a.-bhageerathi.htm
Madhavapeddi Murthy: http://kuchipudikalakar.blogspot.com/2011/03/madhavapeddi-murthy.html
Mahabalipuram: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahabalipuram

Suggested Texts


Suggested Fiction


Some Online Resources

Carnatic Music: http://www.carnatic.com/
Carnatic Music Performances: http://www.carnaticindia.com/
Indian Classical Dance: http://www.chandrakantha.com/articles/indian_music/nritya.html
Indian Classical Dance Directory: http://www.narthaki.com/

UI India Winterim Music and Dance Film

A documentary called Cultural Connections Through The Performing Arts was created by students who traveled to India to participate in this course as part of the 2010 – 2011 UI India Winterim Program. This experience may be viewed here:

http://flashmedia.uiowa.edu/cmp/ken/cultural_connections.mp4

2012-2013 COURSE ITINERARY (Dates for 2013-2014 are forthcoming)

Friday, December 28th
Depart Chicago, Illinois

Sunday, December 30th
Arrive Chennai, India
Global Adjustments workshop hosted by Shanti Puducheri and Usha Sridhar
Evening banquet

Monday, December 31st
Lec/Dem: Bharat Natyam Dancer Bala Devi Chandrashekar
Lec/Dem: Carnatic Music and the Violin by Harini Nagarajan
New Year’s Eve Celebration

Tuesday, January 1st, 2013
Music Concert: S. Shashank (flute), Madras Music Academy, 9:15-11:45 am
Visit to the Tomb of St. Thomas
Dance Concert: Uddava Gita: The Last Message of Lord Krishna, Bala Devi Chandrashekar, Kartik Fine Arts, 7:30-9:00 pm

Wednesday, January 2nd
Music Lecture: Overview of Carnatic Music by Geetha Rajagopal
Music Workshop: M. A. Bhageerathi Anantharaman
Dance Concert: Kuchipudi, Madhavapeddi Murthy and Dancers, Ayappan Temple, Chennai

Thursday, January 3rd
Morning Yoga Class: M. Subbulakshmi
Music Lecture: Radha Ramji
Lec/Dem: Sarasvati Vina, Dr. Shanti Malesh, Queen's Mary College Department of Music, Chennai
Music Concert: Sudha Ragunathan (voice)

Friday, January 4th
Morning Yoga Class
Music Workshop: Sudha Raja, Choral Music Instructor, Suswara School of Music
Lec/Dem: Mridangam, Mannar Koil J. Balaji

Saturday, January 5th
Field trip: Visit to Gingee Fort and Thiruvannamalai Temples
Stay overnight at Yogi Ramsuratkumar Ashram, Thiruvannamalai

Sunday, January 6th
Visit Thiruvannamalai
Return to Chennai

Monday, January 7th
Morning Yoga Class
Dance Lec/Dem: Madhavapeddi Murthy, Siva Foundation.
Dance Demo: Bharat Natyam, Suresh Kumar
Music Lecture: V. Sriram

Tuesday, January 8th
Morning Yoga Class
Film and Lecture: Geetha Rajagopal
Music Workshop: M. A. Bhageerathi Anantharaman

Wednesday, January 9th
Morning Yoga Class
Dance Lec/Dem: Mohiniattam, Gopika Verma and Swarna
Dance Lec/Dem: Kuchipudi, Kuchipudi Art Academy
Visit with V. V. Sundaram, Founder Cleveland Tyagaraja Festival
Visit with Member Secretary/Actress Sachu, Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, State Government Performing Arts Cultural Organization
Dance Concert: Odissi, Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, Madras Music Academy

Thursday, January 10th
Morning Yoga Class: Dr. Udhuman Ali. Acupuncture: Five Element Theory
Visit to Tamil Nadu Government Museum of Chennai
  Performance of Villu Pattu by Subbu Arumugam
  Tour of archeology section of museum
Visit to Samparadaya, Center for South Indian Music Tradition at the Kalakshetra Foundation, hosted by Director Geetha Rajagopal.
  Demonstration of Therukoothu (Street Play) by Chandra
  Visit by famed Nagaswaram performer S. R. G. Rajanna
Visit to Kalakshetra Craft and Education and Research Center, Textile Manufacturing of Kalakshetra
Friday, January 11th
Morning Yoga Class
Field Trip: Crocodile Bank, Tiger Cave and Mamallapuram
Stay overnight in Puducherry

Saturday, January 12th
Walking tour of White Town, Pondicherry, Ashok Panda, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
Dance Concert: Savitri: Dancing in the Forest of Death, Preetin Vasudevan, Adishakti, Laboratory for Theater Arts Research, Auroville
Stay overnight in Puducherry

Sunday, January 13th
Visit Nataraja Temple, Chidambaram
Return to Chennai

Monday, January 14th
Pongal Celebration hosted by Geetha Rajagopali and Bhaagee
Music Lec/Dem: Dr. M. Lalitha, Fulbright Fellow, USA

Tuesday, January 15th
Morning Yoga Class: Dr. Sushma. Ayurveda Practices.
Visit to Aascar Films Kollywood movie production shoot of “I”

Wednesday, January 16th
Morning Yoga Class
Visit to Chennai American International School. Hosted by Andrew Hoover

Thursday, January 17th
Morning Yoga Class
Day of Rest / Shopping

Friday, January 18th
Depart for Chicago

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 Prof. Alan Sener, Dance (alan-sener@uiowa.edu) or Prof. Trevor Harvey, Music (trevor-harvey@uiowa.edu)
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.”