SYLLABUS: WINTER 2013-14
ART + ARCHITECTURE OF INDIA: TRADITION, SOCIAL PRACTICE AND THE CONTEMPORARY
DELHI - JAIPUR - AGRA + MORE

Course Instructors from Iowa:
Professors Anita Jung + Susan White
School of Art + Art History

Course Partners in India:
Amit Kumar Jain and Ambika Jain - Navsar
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Course Description:
This course will count as 01F:105: (DRAW:3310:) Concepts in Drawing 3 s.h.
Drawing from topics; observation, theory, media, form, content; emphasizes developing a personal direction

This course explores the impact of traditional crafts upon the practice of contemporary artists in India. The program's main objective is to immerse students interested in art and culture into one of the world's richest places for artistic traditions that are centuries old yet still practiced in daily life. You will experience workshops of artisans engaged in traditional crafts as well as engage in dialogues with contemporary artists while visiting their studios.

India is one of today's most important countries as it is the largest and fastest developing democratic nation. India today is straddling increasing technological and manufacturing power and yet, the difficulties of third world evolution. It is a country rich in tradition and filled with living monuments where one can experience the paradoxes of new and old over laying one another.

This course will investigate concepts of drawing, social practice and activism as well as using the arts to preserve traditions and buoy local economies. Beyond visiting such outstanding architectural wonders and museums the course will work with local artists and craftspeople in a series of workshops while also visiting organizations such as the Barefoot College and Sahmat.

Barefoot College is a non-governmental organization that has been providing basic services and solutions to problems in rural communities for more than 40 years, with the objective of making these communities self-sufficient and sustainable. The College applies rural traditional knowledge and skills to build homes for the homeless, collect rain water in rural schools and community where potable water sources are scarce, as well as to spread socio-economic messages at the grassroot level through puppetry.

The Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust/SAHMAT has been a platform for contemporary artists since 1989 with a shared perspective. Through their collective and individual activities they have discovered and displayed new dimensions of many social issues, and opened up the possibility of reaching out to different sections in new ways, and allow the broadest unity to be forged among artists, intellectuals and cultural activists.
Students will also have the opportunity to work with Navsar, which is an independent organization developing a platform for young artists graduating from art institutes across India. Navsar promotes and supports artists of various visual art mediums, while also working with folk artists, and is keen to take traditional Indian arts into a new sphere of creativity. Navsar links its exhibitions with organizations that promote sustainable as well as conscious creative endeavors, thus making art with a purpose the foundation of Navsar’s future.

Course Content:
The Art and Architecture of India Study Abroad Winter Program is structured around the understanding that in India, art is so intimately associated with religion, philosophy and politics that it would be impossible to understand the society and culture without a thorough awareness of its arts. This study abroad course is uniquely based upon the living classroom where students combine their academic practice with site-travel events. You will gain hands-on art and cultural experiences while simultaneously carrying out an academic program examining the overall development of art and culture throughout India’s history.

Course Objectives:
You will return home with increased intercultural competence, a broader understanding and appreciation for cultural sensitivity, greater knowledge of India, less anxiety in interacting with people from different cultures, friendships developed with people from other cultures, and an enhanced ability to form meaningful intercultural networks.
Furthermore, This Study Abroad Program will provide a broad foundation of the knowledge valuable not only to artists, but also more generally to an increasingly globally interactive society. In addition to advancing greater understanding and respect for cultures other than one’s own, the program further develops awareness and consideration of one’s personal cultural identity.

Course Requirements:
We will investigate how those elements can be used in relation to simple drawing techniques. Periodically there will be specific drawing or photo assignments given. All students are required to keep a journal/sketchbook and engage in making art on the road throughout the trip; this will determine 50% of your mark for the course. The independent project you propose will decide 25% of your grade and will be discussed with faculty while in India. Your participation, attitude and contribution will establish the remaining 25% of your overall grade. We will also be using +/- ratings. Your independent project, along with work made on the trip will be featured in a conference and exhibition at the University of Iowa scheduled for about a month after we return, only after this event are course grades assigned.

There are some open days during the program. You can choose to use these times to work on your art or engage in optional activities. However, no one is permitted to travel independently or go off without notifying one of the instructors prior to their leaving.

Tentative Course Dates:
Sunday, December 29, 2013 – Friday, January 17, 2014

Tentative Course Costs:
$2,600 + airfare + visa and passport + some museum entries