

HIMALAYA ADVENTURE PROGRAM

The Loyola Program in India offers students the opportunity for summer study in regions of North India that are striking for their cultural diversity, natural beauty, and historical richness. The program will be based in Dharamsala, located in the Kangra Valley in the shadow of the Dhauladhar range of the Himalayas. Dharamsala is the center of India's Tibetan refugee community and the seat of the Tibetan Government in Exile. Students will also visit Delhi, one of India's largest and most historic cities and India's capital; the Taj Mahal, the jewel of Indian Muslim architecture located in Agra; Amritsar, site of the Sikh Golden Temple; and Tso Pema, the "Lotus Lake" sacred to Buddhists, Sikhs, and Hindus. Students will visit social services programs to learn about their work in India. They will visit Hindu and Buddhist temples, Sikh gurudwaras, Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, a Sufi shrine, and hear talks by traditional Tibetan teachers.

The Summer Program in Dharamsala, India, is open to all students in good standing at Loyola or their home university. Students will take the courses, Development of Social Thought, and Cultures of North India and Tibet. Lodging in Dharamsala will be in comfortable double rooms in a Tibetan guesthouse. In Delhi, we will explore the Pahar Ganj (old bazaar), visit the Gandhi Museum and Memorial, and the Nizam ud-Din Dargah (tomb and shrine for a famous Sufi saint). A day trip to Agra will take us to see the Taj Mahal. On the trip to Tso Pema (the lake where Padmasambhava, the legendary founder of Tibetan Tantric Buddhism, is said to have been reborn from a lotus), we will visit cave-dwelling Tibetan nuns, Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, Hindu temples, and a Sikh gurudwara. In Mandi we will see Hindu temples and sites sacred to Padmasambhava and his consort Mandarava. In and around Dharamsala, we will visit the Main Temple of the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Museum, the Tibetan Children's Village, and take an optional trek up Triund mountain to spend two nights in a rustic lodge in an alpine meadow.

Before leaving for India, each student will be paired with a Tibetan mutual learning partner in Dharamsala. The partners will exchange messages before our departure, and after our arrival they will meet for conversations. This will introduce the students to Tibetan culture and help the Tibetan partners practice their reading, writing, and speaking English and counts towards service learning.

The program is co-directed by Dr. Marcus Kondkar in Sociology and Dr. Catherine Wessinger in Religious Studies.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

The Center for International Education (CIE) will be happy to discuss health care concerns you may have related to study abroad. Integration into a new culture and learning environment creates particular challenges, both mental and physical, for an individual. For this reason, if you are currently receiving treatment for any chronic illness it is strongly recommended that you talk with the CIE director or your doctor about plans to manage your health condition abroad.

Students should consult with a physician to determine which vaccinations for India recommended by the Center for Disease Control should be received. To view the CDC recommendations, go to <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationIndia.aspx>.

The program's activities include long walks, climbing up steep hills and stairs, and an optional five-hour trek from about 6,560 feet (the highest altitude in Dharamsala) to about 9,500 feet to spend two nights on Triund mountain. If you have any concerns about your ability to perform any of these activities or have other special needs or disability-related concerns, please contact the Center for International Education.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND THE ONLINE APPLICATION

Visit: <http://studyabroad.loyno.edu/?go=LoyolaIndia>

Contact: Dr. Marcus Kondkar
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**LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS**

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SUMMER PROGRAM IN

DHARAMSALA, INDIA

JULY 2 – 30, 2014





COURSES

SOCI O240: Development of Social Thought

This course focuses on the original writings of four social theorists: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel. Their ideas emerged in response to changes affecting modern Europe, but they have a timeless, universal quality about them. They help us make sense of contemporary and historical patterns of social life and social change in our local and global contexts. For this summer program, the course will examine the central tenets of the four theorists in the Indian context.

LING O294: Cultures of North India and Tibet

This course will support the students in the program by providing them with a more in-depth understanding of the cultures of the Indian and Tibetan populations with which they will be interacting. The course will focus on writings by Gandhi, the Dalai Lama and historians of religion and politics. *This course contains a service learning component, the bulk of which will be completed by participation in Lha Charitable Trust's Mutual Learning Partner Program in Dharamsala, India.* The course will provide opportunities to process the experiences through exploration of issues related to international group education, and experiential cultural exposure to Indian and Tibetan peoples in northern India.

CLASS SCHEDULE

There will be 75 minutes of class time each day for each course. The schedule will vary according to the travel itinerary. There will be two mandatory meetings on April 24, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. and April 28 at 5 p.m. to discuss courses and trip information.



FACULTY

Marcus Kondkar, Ph.D., is an associate professor of sociology. His research interests include criminology, sociology of law, and sociological theory.

Michael Smith, Instructor and Program Coordinator, has a master's degree in social work and a master's degree in public health from Tulane University. He speaks fluent Tibetan and Hindi and conducted ethnographic research in Nepal on a Fulbright Scholarship.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Loyola's general academic policies apply to study abroad programs. Students must attend all classes and trips (except in case of illness) to fulfill the requirements for the courses. Communications with the mutual learning partner before and during the trip are part of the learning experience and are required. There will be written assignments that are graded.

Students must check with their academic departments or university to determine that the credits and/or grades will be accepted toward graduation requirements. Any student currently enrolled and in good standing at an accredited institution may apply for the India program.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All program applicants must provide a photocopy of their passport on February 21. Students accepted into the program must provide a photocopy of their visa for travel in India by April 11. The cost of the visa is \$76 and is valid for six months from the date of issue. See <https://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com/>



PROGRAM COSTS

The program costs \$5,200, which covers travel health insurance, airfare, lodging, group meals, transportation in India, and credit for two Loyola Common Curriculum courses. **A deposit of \$520 along with the online application are due on February 21.** Participants selected for the program and those on the waiting list will be announced by March 7. The balance of \$4,680 and a photocopy of the student's visa are due by April 11. Students who do not produce a copy of their visa by April 11 will be removed from the program. The deposit will be refunded to students not selected for the program. Checks should be made out to Loyola University New Orleans.

In addition, all program students must pay the university study abroad fee of \$300, which is billed separately through Student Finance.

Plane tickets will be purchased shortly after April 11. There will be no refunds after the plane tickets are purchased.

The student should bring to India at least \$500 to cover additional meals, incidentals, and Indian clothing. Students will need to purchase inexpensive readymade Indian clothing in Delhi to wear to visit religious places of worship and to meet religious teachers. Students should bring additional money if they want to shop for souvenirs and gifts.