

NYU Steinhardt

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

Global Perspectives in Higher Education: India
E98.2151 (3 credit points)
January Intersession Program
January 5 -17, 2010

Class session dates and locations at NYU Campus:

Friday, November 13, 4-6 pm: Dean's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall

Friday, December 4, 4-6 pm: Dean's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall

Friday, February 5, 4-6 pm: Dean's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall

These locations are in Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East.

Faculty:

Professor Teboho Moja
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Professor Ann Marcus
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Purpose of Program

The study trip to India is designed to provide graduate students with an opportunity to examine India's higher education system and to discover and analyze similarities and differences in comparison to higher education in the United States. Through visits to universities and public and private colleges, we will engage in discussions with rectors, faculty members, deans of students and their staffs and students themselves. Special lectures with sociologists and national officials will help us understand the goals and future aspirations of Indian higher education and how higher education meets the social, political and cultural needs of society.

Course Description

E98.2151, GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN HIGHER EDUCATION: INDIA.

In addition to preparatory meetings at NYU, students will participate in a two-week field trip to India that will provide an in-depth case study of its higher education system. The trip includes lectures from scholars and visits to Indian colleges and universities to meet with faculty, administrators and students. Additional sessions will be held with scholars and local experts on higher education in India to explore current issues the government is addressing. Topics will include curricular opportunities; college admissions requirements; distribution of students by class and ethnicity; college climate and the student services offered.

Course requirements:

Please note: All electronic assignments should be submitted through Blackboard via the "Assignments" section.

1. Each student will turn in a reflective response paper based on preliminary course readings, which will be due on **December 3 at 6 pm** on Blackboard.
2. Each student is expected to keep a journal recording **daily** impressions, responses to readings, presentations, etc. The journal will be submitted immediately upon our return to New York by **January 20**. If electronic, please submit the journal through Blackboard. If hand-written, please drop off to the office of either Professor Marcus or Professor Moja.
3. Students are expected to prepare a research paper due on **February 28** on Blackboard. An outline of this paper will be due **January 29** on Blackboard, and each student will also present his/her research topic at our NYU class session on **February 5th** to obtain feedback and guidance from the group. The choice of an area of focus for the paper can be informed by the experience in India but will also be a response to course reading and additional academic and journalistic sources.

Description of Course Requirements:

Class Contribution:

The contribution you make to the success of this class and to this study abroad experience is important. Students are expected to contribute to the development of a strong, inclusive learning community. As in any graduate course, you are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials thoroughly enough to contribute to a discussion on critical issues within the readings. Students are also expected to attend and actively participate in all classes and scheduled trips except where it is indicated that the activity is optional.

Short Response Paper:

In order to prepare for the trip, students will be required to read literature on the Indian higher education system. Based on the readings, students are expected to prepare a 3-4 double-spaced page reflective response paper due on December 3 at 6 pm on Blackboard.

Journal:

You will need a journal that you can write in each day. This journal can be loose-leaf paper, a bound notebook, or typed. The choice is yours. It may be hand written, so there is no need for a computer to complete your class assignments while in India. You will hand in your journal upon our return by January 20. Journaling provides an opportunity for **daily reflection** on what you are learning and experiencing in India. This journal provides a place for capturing your personal reflections on issues we address in class, through presentations, as well as on the broader experiences that you have in India.

Final Research Paper/Project and Presentation:

You will conduct a study and write a final research paper on your area of specialization grounded in issues relevant to India. The purpose of this paper is to deepen your understanding of critical educational issues in India. The final research paper should be approximately 12 - 15 pages long (typed, APA format).

An outline of this paper will be due **January 29** on Blackboard. Each student will also present his/her research topic at our NYU class session on **February 5th** to obtain feedback and guidance from the group.

By no later than **February 28**, students will submit their final papers on Blackboard. **IMPORTANT:** Unless there is an extenuating circumstance, no incompletes will be given for late/missing/unfinished work.

1.) Background

Required:

Lord, M. (Ed.). (2007). *Insight Guide: India*. (pp. 15-105)

Mehta, S. (2004). *Maximum city: Bombay lost and found*. New York, NY: Vintage Books. (pp. 3 – 39, plus 3 additional chapters from each section of the book: Power, Pleasure and Passages)

A native of Bombay, Suketu Mehta gives us an insider's view of this stunning metropolis. He approaches the city from unexpected angles.... delving into the stories of countless villagers who come in search of a better life and end up living on the sidewalks....Candid, impassioned, funny, and heartening, *Maximum City* is a revelation of an ancient and ever-changing world (Vintage Books).

Recommended:

Jadhav, N. (2005). *Untouchables: My family's triumphant escape from India's caste system*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Jadhav, a leading economist and policy maker in India, is a member of India's Dalits--or untouchables--a group that numbers 165 million. His moving memoir is a tribute to his parents, who made it their goal to educate their children, especially his father, Damu, who stood up to the caste system (Deborah Donovan).

2.) Higher Education Books and Articles:

Required:

Agarwal, P. (2009). *Indian higher education: Envisioning the future*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (Chapters 1, 2, 7, & 9)

Department of Education. (2009). Main Players in the Higher Education System. *Government of India*. Retrieved October 30, 2009 from <http://www.education.nic.in/higedu.htm> (Scroll down to “Main Players in the Higher Education System” and read from this point forward until end.)

Jayaram, N. (2003). The fall of the guru: The decline of the academic profession in India. In Altbach, P.G. (Eds.), *The decline of the guru: The academic profession in the third world*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan. (See Blackboard.)

Recommended:

Altbach, P.G. & Jayaram, N. (January 11, 2009). INDIA: Effort to join the 21st century higher education. *University World News*. Retrieved September 26, 2009 from <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090108193113947>

India plans big budget increase to finance higher-education expansion. (February 20, 2009). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved September 26, 2009 from <http://chronicle.com/article/India-Plans-Big-Budget-Incr/42448/>

McMurtrie, B. & Fischer, K. (November 1, 2009). On U.S. visit, India’s education minister presses for more involvement by American universities. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved November 3, 2009 from <http://chronicle.com/article/Indias-Education-Minister/49015/?key=SG0mdltpNi1PbCJiKXUTL3dTYHt%2Fc01%2FOSEVYncaZ11V>

Neelakantan, S. (January 30, 2009). Rapid expansion strains elite Indian institutes. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved September 26, 2009 from <http://chronicle.com/article/Rapid-Expansion-Strains-Elite/20362>

Tandon, K. (July 19, 2009). India: Call for massive overhaul of higher education. *University World News*. Retrieved October 2, 2009 from <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090717085840598>

Weisskopf, T.E. (2006). *Affirmative action in the United States and India: A comparative perspective*. New York, NY: Routledge.

3.) Fiction and Films:

Required Fiction:

Adiga, A. (2008). *White Tiger*. New York: Free Press.

- Winner of the Man Booker Prize, 2008

In this darkly comic debut novel set in India, Balram, a chauffeur, murders his employer. In a series of letters to the Premier of China, the chauffeur recounts his transformation from an honest, hardworking boy growing up in rural India -- to a determined killer (The New Yorker).

Recommended Fiction:

We encourage you to read additional novels and make recommendations to the group via email.

Forster, E.M. & Mishra, P. (1936). *Passage to India*. London: Penguin Books

A masterly portrait of a society in the grip of imperialism, *A Passage to India* compellingly depicts the fate of individuals caught between the great political and cultural conflicts of the modern world (Amazon.com).

Mistry, R. (1995). *A fine balance*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, Inc.

A splendid tale of contemporary India that, in chronicling the sufferings of outcasts and innocents trying to survive in the "State of Internal Emergency" of the 1970s, grapples with the great question of how to live in the face of death and despair (Kirkus Associates).

Umrigar, T. (2005). *The space between us: A Novel (P.S.)*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

Umrigar's novel illustrates the intimacy, and the irreconcilable class divide, between two women in contemporary Bombay. Bhima, a 65-year-old slum dweller, has worked for Sera, a younger upper-middle-class Parsi woman, for years: cooking, cleaning and tending Sera. Sera, in turn, nurses Bhima back to health from typhoid fever and sends her granddaughter Maya to college. In a final plot twist, class allegiance combined with gender inequality challenges personal connection (Publisher's Weekly).

Recommended Films:

We highly recommend viewing films depicting Indian life. Search Amazon.com for Indian movies or this site for movies and their reviews:
<http://www.imdb.com/Sections/Countries/India/>

Slumdog Millionaire (2009) – Winner of Academy Award Best Picture, 2009
A Mumbai teen who grew up in the slums becomes a contestant on the Indian version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" He is arrested under suspicion of cheating, and while being interrogated, events from his life history are shown which explain why he knows the answers.

Monsoon Wedding (2001). A stressed father, a bride-to-be with a secret, a smitten event planner, and relatives from around the world create much ado about the preparations for an arranged marriage in India.

Gandhi (1982). Biography of Mahatma Gandhi, the lawyer who became the famed leader of the Indian revolts against the British through his philosophy of non-violent protest.

The *Apu Trilogy* (1955-1959): Directed by Satijay Ray, this trilogy was a milestone in Indian cinema and won 3 National Film Awards and 7 awards from the Cannes, Berlin, and Venice Film Festivals.

- *Pather Panchali (Song of the Little Road)* (1955) – depicts the childhood of the protagonist, Apu, in the rural countryside of Bengal in the 1920's
- *Aparajito (The Unvanquished)* (1956) – focuses on the life of Apu from childhood to college
- *Apur Sansar (The World of Apu)* (1959) – focuses on Apu's adult life

Websites of Institutions we're visiting:

Jawaharlal Nehru University - Delhi: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/>

University of Delhi - <http://www.du.ac.in/>

St. Xavier's College – <http://www.xaviers.edu/map.htm>

Tata Institute of Social Sciences – <http://www.tiss.edu>

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Mumbai) – <http://www.iitb.ac.in/>

Birla College - <http://www.birlacollege.org/>

Itinerary (DRAFT – subject to revision)

Friday, 11/13

NYU Class Session #1

Reading:

- Indian Department of Higher Education website
www.education.nic.in/higedu.htm - (Scroll down to “Main Players
in the Higher Education System” and read from this point
forward.)

-*The Insight Guide: India*, pp. 15- 105

Friday, 12/4

NYU Class Session #2

Reading:

-Agarwal, Chapter 1

-*Maximum City*, pp. 3-38 plus a few short chapters from each of
the 3 sections of the book: Power, Pleasure and Passages

Due: Reflective Response Paper (3-4 double spaced pages)

Monday, 1/4

Depart United States

Tuesday, 1/5

Arrive in Delhi (Delhi International Airport)

Wednesday, 1/6

Day of Touring in Delhi

Class in the Evening

Reading:

Agarwal Chapters 1 & 2

Evening Talk at Hotel (8:30 pm): Talk by Jandhyala B.G. Tilak,
Head of the Department of Educational Finance at the National
University of Educational Planning and Administration (NEUPA)

Thursday, 1/7

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi – all day

(9:30 am – 6 pm which includes travel)

Reading:

Agarwal Chapters 7 & 9

Friday, 1/8

University of Delhi - all day

(9:30 am – 6 pm which includes travel)

Saturday, 1/9

Travel by motor coach to Agra and overnight

(stop at YMCA Rural Centre and possible stop at a Technical
College on highway if open)

Sunday, 1/10

Visit Taj Mahal at sunrise, tour Agra area, and optional visit to
Mother Teresa’s charity mission (home for orphans)

Monday, 1/11

Travel to Mumbai by plane

Class in the Evening

Reading:

Maximum City and *White Tiger*

Tuesday, 1/12 **St. Xavier's College** - all day
(9:30 am – 6 pm which includes travel)

Wednesday, 1/13 **Tata Institute** – all day
(9:30 am – 6 pm which includes travel)

Thursday, 1/14 (Class in morning at hotel?)
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB) – all day
(9:30 – 6 pm which includes travel)

Friday, 1/15 **Birla College** -- all day
(9:30 am – 6 pm, which includes travel)

Saturday, 1/16 Elephanta Caves on Elephanta Island / Tour Mumbai
Farewell Reception in the evening

Sunday, 1/17 Depart for New York (from Mumbai International Airport)