Traveling to beautiful South India will introduce students to the diversity of contemporary South India and address global issues of social structure, class, religious identity and gender. This active, colorful course will include many opportunities to make friends with locals to learn about this rapidly changing society.

Course Goals

- To be knowledgeable about Indian religious traditions, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism & Jainism.
- To understand how gender, caste and religion affect life in contemporary South India.
- To learn first hand about Indian family life, including marriage and childhood.

Itinerary (estimated—dates may change)

Jan. 2-3—Travel to India
Jan. 4-7—Chennai: Walking tours and activities
Jan. 8—Mahabalipuram: Dakshinachitra arts center
Jan. 9—Mahabalipuram: Pallava monuments
Jan. 10—Pandiyan Express overnight train: Madurai
Jan. 11—Madurai: Meenakashi Sundaresvarar Temple & Murugan Temple
Jan. 12—Madurai: Muslim life and culture
Jan. 13—Thekkady: Travel
Jan. 14—Periyar Tiger Reserve: Jeep ride & hike
Jan. 15—Periyar: Boat ride, overnight on houseboat
Jan. 16—Cochin: European church
Jan. 17—Cochin: Jewish community & lecture from Communist Party official of Kerala
Jan. 18—Palakkad: Spice Garden, Snake Park and Dam, Kathakali Dance Drama performance, homestay with host family
Jan. 19—Village: Time with host families,
Jan. 20-22—Chennai: Opportunities for yoga, cooking, music, and dance
Jan. 22-24—Depart for U.S.
Travel Study Southern India

Highlights & Course Information

- 3 credits
- Fulfills experiential requirement
- Open to sophomores, juniors, seniors
- Faculty-led course with MC and Elon students and professors
- Includes pre-departure orientation & ongoing lessons

Throughout the course, students will engage in reading and writing assignments, Directed Study opportunities, and presentations in order to prepare for site visits and interactions with locals. There will be regular lectures by faculty and local experts.

Course topics will include: Indian languages and literatures, religious identity and traditions, folk arts, colonialism’s impact, and cultural life...

Program Fee: $3,700—$3,900 (subject to change)

Program fee includes:
- Round-trip airfare
- Transportation
- Housing
- 2 meals/day
- Travel insurance

Does not include:
- Passport
- Travel Visa
- Immunizations or vaccinations
- Spending money
- Tips

Faculty Leaders

Dr. Amy Allocco
- Distinguished Emerging Scholar of Religion at Elon University
- More than 15 years of experience in South India
- Fluent in Indian language Tamil
- Past MC faculty leader to India

Dr. Brian Pennington
- MC Professor of Religion
- Past MC faculty leader to India
- Extensive research and experience in India for over 20 years

Scholarships & Application Process

Fill out an application form (www.maryvillecollege.edu/studyabroad) and return to Kirsten Sheppard (see below). Selection decisions are made by faculty members and are based upon the entire application packet: application, essay, references, GPA, student conduct, matching student and course goals, etc.

Apply by March 1 with $100 deposit. Only students who are not selected for any listed sites will receive a refund of this application fee. Selected students will need to make a $200 deposit by April 15.

The Travel Study scholarship can cover up to $1000. Download and submit scholarship form by March 1.

Kirsten Sheppard - Center for International Education
International House - (865) 273-8991 - kirsten.sheppard@maryvillecollege.edu