

INDIA MAYTERM, 2020

Drs. Charles Farhadian & Viji Cammauf

July 8 – August 14, 2020

PURPOSE

The focus of the India Mayterm is to introduce students to Indian culture, society, and religion through two courses, serving particular needs of Indian villagers, and several site visitations to Hindu and Christian places of worship and social service. Our goal is to broaden the worldview of Westmont students, and help equip and inspire them to be world Christians through encounters with people of other faiths and service in the name of Jesus Christ.

ACADEMIC CONTENT & CREDIT HOURS

The two courses are *Encountering Hinduism* (RS) and *Mission & Social Justice* (RS). Each course will count for 4 units, so together students will earn 8 units for the Mayterm. Please refer to the travel schedule and syllabi, which outlines the itinerary and educational experiences. *Encountering Hinduism* has been approved “thinking globally” GE credit and the course *Mission & Social Justice* has been approved for “communicating cross-culturally” and “serving society” GE credit.

IDENTIFY STUDENT POOL

The targeted student population includes the following groups: a) RS majors and minors, b) all students interested in religions, cultures, mission, and service. In the past, we have had a wide variety of majors in this program. Additionally, any student, even first-year students, will be encouraged to apply. However, the final decision regarding acceptance to the program will be determined by the Off Campus Programs office and the two faculty leaders, Drs. Farhadian and Cammauf.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Charles Farhadian (RS) and Dr. Viji Cammauf will co-lead the program. Viji Cammauf holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA and is the director of a Christian ministry to children and single mothers in a Hindu village outside of Chennai (Little Flock Children's Homes). Viji grew up in India, speaking English, Tamil, and Telugu. As a college student in the US, Viji converted from Hinduism to Christianity and has since had a vibrant Christian faith. Currently, Viji is an Adjunct Professor at the American Baptist Seminary in Berkeley, lecturer for the Prospectives on the World Christian Movement course, and President of Little Flock Children's Homes, a non-profit organization with a vision to care for orphans and widows in India. Viji serves on the William Carey Heritage Foundation, Serampore College, India. She has been a popular lecturer and conference speaker for over 15 years, and she and her husband reside in Oakland, CA. We will also include Katherine Farhadian on our leadership and teaching team. Katherine did her undergraduate degree in horticulture at North Carolina State University and her master's in forest science from Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, where she focused on social ecology. She will be delivering a few lectures on themes of the relationship among humans, religions, and the environment. We will probably include Dr. Gary Moon, depending on his schedule, to lead a spiritual formation retreat prior to our departure as well as to help guide our conversations and debriefing while traveling in India. Drs. Farhadian and Cammauf will co-teach the two courses. Charlie's family

plans to join the group, with the college's permission. We will also invite Sharon Linberger to be on support staff and help with logistics for about two weeks, when we need more assistance with logistics and support. Sharon is an American with long time experience in India.

Itinerary for India Mayterm July 8 – August 14, 2020

July 8-12: On campus, Westmont (5 hours per day), lectures, culture; spiritual formation exercises

July 13: pack (Saturday)

July 14: Depart LAX to Delhi

July 16: Arrive in Delhi

July 17-19: Delhi; acclimating, shopping, sightseeing; learning about cultures

July 20: Depart for Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

July 20-22: Varanasi: lectures, Ganges boat ride, temple tours

July 22: Depart for Kolkata (Bengal)

July 22-29: Kolkata: serve at Mother Teresa's mission, visit Serampore College; lectures, sightseeing

July 29: Depart for Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)

July 29-August 1: Hyderabad: lectures, sightseeing

August 1: Depart for Chennai (Tamil Nadu), drive to Little Flock Children's Homes (rural Chennai)

August 1-12: Rural Chennai (Hanumanthapuram Village); projects, lectures, exams, temple visits

August 12-14: Chennai City: mini-tracks (a. Indian medicine, science; b. Indian music, art, dance)

August 14: Depart for LAX, USA