**IST 482/582 Special Topics – SOUTH AFRICAN ECOLOGY AND CULTURE**

**Syllabus and Course Information**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Thomas G. Jones, Ph.D.

**OFFICE:** 115 Morrow **Phone:** (304) 389-5882 **E-mail:** jonest@marshall.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tues. 8:30-10:00 2:30 - 4, Wed. 1-5 if scheduled, Thurs 8:30-10:00 2:30 - 4; and by appointment.

**CLASS TIME:** 5-9 pm Tuesday nights and scheduled field trip. **CREDIT HOURS:** 4

**TEXT:** : Mammals of India, 2014, Vivek Menon, Princeton Field Guides: Princeton University Press ISBN: 9780691140674; Prehistory and Archaeology of Northeast India, 2017, Manjil Hazarika, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780199474660; Birds of India, Richard Grimmet, C Inskipp, and T Inskipp, 2011, Princeton Field Guides: Princeton University Press ISBN: 9780691153490

**LAB FEE: @**$5,000 (all inclusive except for personal items, meals during airport travel,

medications, visa/passport fees, ).

**\*\*\* All notices regarding this class will be sent out to your campus e-mail address.**

**Thus, you are required to check your campus e-mail for class updates regularly. \*\*\***

**\*\*\* All students must have instructor permission to enroll in this course\*\*\*\***

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

A. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the North East Indian (NEI) biota (plants and animals) and their relationships with the environment. Through readings, lectures, and experience,

NEI animals and their ecology will be covered in addition to ethnobotany, culture,

history, and economics of North East India.

1. There are three main components to the course:

a. Lecture - which is based upon experiences of the course instructor, guest speakers, and

reading assignments;

b. Laboratory - which will center around a 21 day field experience in North East India in which

students will plan, execute and write up a research project;

c. Discussions - based upon readings in current Indian literature.

2. Goals and Objectives

a. Provide a cross cultural and interdisciplinary experience through which students will gain

insight into the cultural and biological diversity of a part of the world which is very different

b. Provide “hands-on” experience in study of local ecosystems & the challenges facing them.

c. Through interactions with local residents will provide students the

opportunity to confront cultural norms, living conditions, and world views that are not only

outside of the norm for them, but quite likely, outside of their comfort zone.

d. Provide an opportunity through which students can experience one of the most spectacular

ecosystems on Earth

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

A. The fall North East India trip is mandatory.

B. It is expected that students will attend all class periods. Class attendance is necessary for optimum

performance in this class and roll will be taken at each class meeting.  **DO NOT be late.**

C. In this course, the instructors will require active participation of each student during each class

meeting. By missing class, you will not be able to participate in class discussions and the class will

not benefit from your ideas and comments.

D. If you have to miss a class for any reason, please let me know about it, if possible, in advance of

the day you will be absent. In this way, you will know what material you will miss and can return

to class prepared to continue.

E. All students on performance scholarships will have their absences reported to the proper coach,

ensemble director, etc. It is each student's individual responsibility to contact the instructor directly

regarding absences. (i.e. do not rely on mass e-mails sent by some offices to instructors).

F. Disruptive behavior in class (extraneous talking, entering and leaving class, etc.) will result in 1

warning with the second offense resulting in removal from class, permanently.

**EVALUATION PROCEDURES:**

A. Your grade will be based on:

1. 4 identification exams covering the most common birds, fish, reptiles/amphibians, and

mammals/insects.

2. 1 exam covering history and culture of NEI.

3. 1 Powerpoint presentation on one of the above subjects.

4. Conduct while on the NEI field trip.

5. NEI research project and write up.

6. Personal journal kept while on the NEI field trip (minimum 3 pages a day).

B. If you are going to miss a lecture test, you must notify me *by e-mail or phone* **BEFORE** the scheduled time of the test explaining the reason for missing the test. If you are going to miss a test due to a school sponsored activity, you must inform me (in the same initial notification e-mail) of the day and time you will be returning to campus. If you miss a test for illness or other reasons, you must notify me by e-mail when you return to campus. **If the reason for missing the test is valid** (as determined solely by the instructor), you must take the make-up test on Wednesday or Friday at noon in the Division Secretary Office following your return to campus (whichever is soonest). For example, if you return to campus at 2pm on a Tuesday, you must take the test at noon on Wednesday. Your make-up lecture test may be a different format than the original lecture test. Make-up tests may NOT be taken before the original test is given. If I am not contacted before the scheduled time of the lecture test, you will not be able to take a make-up test. In addition, any attempt to misrepresent the day you return to campus will disqualify you from taking a make-up test. ***Failure to follow this procedure will result in a zero for the missed test***

C. There are **NO EXTRA CREDIT** assignments given.

D. **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Marshall University students are expected to adhere to the highest standard of academic honesty. Academic misconduct is defined as follows:

*Any form of cheating, including concealed notes during exams, copying or allowing others to copy from an exam, students substituting for one another in exams, submission of another person’s work for evaluation, preparing work for another person’s submission, unauthorized collaboration on an assignment, submission of the same or substantially similar work for two courses without the permission of the professors. Plagiarism is a form of Academic Misconduct that involves taking either direct quotes or slightly altered, paraphrased material from a source without proper citations and thereby failing to credit the original author. Cutting and pasting fromany source including the Internet, as well as purchasing papers, are forms of plagiarism.*

Academic dishonesty will result in failing the course and possible expulsion from the College.

E. Grades will be assigned using the traditional scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%,

D = 60-69%, F = below 60%.

Bird exam: 50 pts

Reptile/Amphibian exam: 50 pts

Fish exam: 25 pts Mammal/Insect exam: 50 pts

History and Culture exam: 50 pts

Powerpoint presentation: 75 pts

Africa research project 100 pts

Class conduct 200 pts

NEI Journal / 100 pts

Reflection Paper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total: 700 pts

**OTHER:**

A. There are no REQUIRED medications to travel to NEI according to the U.S. Center for

disease control. However, they do recommend malaria medication, and Hepatitis A and B

vaccines. However, we will be traveling in the dry winter and risk is low. These vaccines will need

to be started in January and can be obtained from the local County Health Department office,

typically, for a fraction of the price that you will pay at your family doctor’s office.

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE Fall 2017 (lecture component):**

Week 1 – paperwork processing/ International Travel Orientation

Week 2 – Introduction to North East Indian History/Culture

Week 3 – North East Indian government and its transition to Democracy/ Economy

Week 4 – Conservation of megafauna in India

Week 5 – Birds of the region

Week 6 – Reptiles and Amphibians of the region

Week 7 – Mammals of the Region

Week 8 – General Ecology of the Kaziranga National Park

Week 9 – General Ecology of NEI

Week 10 – Introduction to Kaziranga National Park

Week 11 – Conservation Practices

Week 12 – Human Trafficking

Week 13 – International Travel Do’s and Don’ts

Week 14 – Meal with MU Indian Students with discussion of India

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE SPRING 2017 (Field Trip):**

Day 01 – Travel Charleston to Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi

Day 02 - Arrive New Delhi transfer to Radisson Blue Plaza

Day 03 – Travel to Taj Mahal and to the Red Fort at Agra, all day trip

Day 04 – Morning Yoga on the shore of Yamuna River? Then fly to Guwahati

Day 05 - Visit Prescilla Center, weaving facility, Flower Street to Brahmaputra River

Day 06 – Travel to Kaziranga National Park, jeep tours and visit tea gardens in area

Day 07 – Sunrise tour in Kaziranga and jeep tour

Day 08 – Jeep tour, meet with park rangers and visit local community to see conservation efforts

Day 09 - Travel to Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve

Day 10 – Float trip on river and trail guided tour by forestry ranger

Day 11 – Travel back to Guwahati visit temple ruins/river cruise?

Day 12 – Travel to Tura, visit silk farm, and working women’s hostel on GBC compound

Day 13 – Travel to Edenbari tour facilities and overnight

Day 14 –Travel to Saldopara village

Day 15 – Saldopara village

Day 16 – Saldopara village

Day 17 – Saldopara village

Day 18 –Saldopara village, Celebration Party

Day 19 – Travel to Siju cave and overnight in Guwahati

Day 20 – Fly to New Dehli

Day 21 – New Dehli to Charleston

**Relevant expertise of participating faculty member:**

I participated in Study Abroad Programs while an Undergraduate and Graduate students. As an Instructor, We have taught and led over 20 Study Abroad Courses/experiences across the globe (Belize, Bonaire, Australia, and South Africa). My expertise lies in environmental studies, international travel, and organization of study abroad experiences. In addition, I have close ties to the Garo Baptist Convention in NEI which has given me valuable in country assets including safe lodging, professional divers, vehicles, interpreters, contacts within villages and insight into the planning of this experience.

**Budget**

Prices for round trip tickets from Charleston to New Delhi onto Assam/Meghalaya provinces and back, range from approximately $1800 to approximately $2300 including all taxes and fees. Activities, travel, meals, insurance, and accommodations while in Africa will be @$3200 for the 3 week experience for total @$5,000.

**Class Rules:**

North East India Ecology and Culture Fall 2017

Intructors:

Thomas G. Jones. Ph.D.

Maggie B. Stone, PhD.

**SAFETY FIRST!!!!**

Travel and Field Experience are inherently more dangerous than classroom lecture. You or someone else can be hurt by your actions! Thus, the following are a set of rules that you must agree to prior to traveling:

1. You cannot be late for ANYTHING, not even 1 minute late!!
2. You must treat each other and everyone else with respect.
3. For your safety, you must listen to and obey the instructor/ group leader instructions on the trip.
4. No drugs or liquor.
5. If you are taking medication, you must notify the instructors and bring copy of the prescription with you.
6. No leaving either field station or activity without permission.
7. Do not go anywhere off the field station by yourself, always travel in a group, with permission.
8. SHAKE OUT YOUR SHOES, scorpions are common.
9. No weapons permitted.
10. Stay on pathways at field stations.
11. No military type clothing of any kind.
12. Do not bring jewelry, except for inexpensive wedding band. You do not want the Tigers or thieves attracted to your shiny new earrings.
13. You must participate in all required activities WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

If at any time it is the opinion of the instructors that you have violated the rules, posed a threat to yourself, or anyone else; the following actions will be taken:

1. You will be notified by Dr. Stone/Dr. Jones that your behavior is not acceptable and must be changed immediately (warning).
2. A second notice will result in loss of privileges and the ability to participate in activities and 1 letter grade drop.
3. After a 3rd notice, you will be transported to the nearest airport and sent home at your expense with no refund.

I agree to the above rules governing my conduct in this class.

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Name Date

**DEPOSIT and PAYMENT:**

**North East India 2017**

Intructors:

Thomas G. Jones, Ph.D.

Maggie B. Stone, PhD.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge and agree to the following terms and

(Print Name) conditions regarding my enrollment in North East India

Ecology and Culture Class/Trip.

1. Due to the nature of the class which requires advanced airline deposits, lodging reservations, etc.:
   1. I agree to have $2,000.00 nonrefundable deposit on Sept 1, 2017 to NEI 2017 trip account to Travel Doctors.
   2. I agree to have an additional $2,000.00 nonrefundable deposit on Sept 29th, 2017.
   3. I agree to have an additional $1,000.00 nonrefundable deposit on October 2nd, 2017.
   4. Thus, after October 2nd, 2017, I agree that the entire field trip fee of $5,000 will become nonrefundable.
   5. If I am not a current MU student, I agree to forward the field trip fee as outlined above to the NEI account at Travel Doctors. I further agree to the dates and nonrefundable stipulations in items a-e.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**India FAQ**

PHONE:

We have at least cell phones that can utilized in case of emergency if we have a signal. Several places we will not have a signal. WiFi is intermitten throughout the areas we will be traveling.

TIME ZONE:

New Delhi, India is 10:30 hours ahead of Huntington, WV. Tura, India is 11 hours ahead of Huntington. Wednesday 4:30 pm in Huntington is 2:10 am Thursday. India uses Indian Standard Time?

CURRENCY:

Foreign currencies can be exchanged at commercial banks (banking hours are from 08:30 – 15:30 on weekdays and 08:30 – 12:00 on Saturday), bureau de change, at airports as well as at major hotels. The conversion rate can vary from 1:64 depending on world market (1 dollar US = 64 Indian Rupee). Recent changes in currency laws are limiting the access to cash to $80 US dollars per week per person. We are working on a way around this limitation with our partners.

ELECTRICITY:

The standard electricity supply in India is 220/230 volts AC 50 Hz.  Appliances compatible with all international plugs are obtainable locally or most hotels will have adaptors available.  If you wish to bring your own adaptor, it can be purchased in any travel store. You will also need a **voltage converter** which is different than an adapter.

**SUGGESTED PACK LIST for India**

***Ecology and Culture***

***PACK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE!***

**No one is going to carry your pack and luggage for you.**

**If it’s to heavy for you, then you’ve packed too much!**

* **NO HARD (i.e plastic/metal sides) SUITCASES – 1 checked bag and 1 carry on per person (carry on approximately no bigger than 13"H x 30"W x 15"D.). Backpacks and soft sided “duffel” type bags work well.**

REQUIRED ITEMS

* Passport
* Other form of identification: student ID, drivers license
* make 2 photocopies of your plane ticket, passport, (in case they get lost)
* leave one copy at home w/ mom, dad, significant other
* bring the 2nd copy with you, but put it in a location different from the originals.
* Extra money for:
* Beverages, Souvenirs, Post cards & stamps, International Calling Cards
* You can use an ATM or credit card to get Indian currency when we get to New Delhi.
* Money holder/belt (besides wallet)
* Don’t forget to let the bank and your various ATM & credit card companies know you might be using your cards in India. Your cards might not work if you don’t.
* Glasses and extra contacts (if applicable)
* Small flashlight/headlamp, with extra batteries (mini-mag lite works well)
* Alarm clock (being late is not an option)
* Book pack/day pack/small backpack (use as your carry on – see listing of suggested carry-on items at the bottom of page 3). **A fanny pack will not work**.
* **Do not take expensive jewelry or anything you’re afraid to lose.**
* **You can bring CD players, iPods, hand-held video games, BUT they will NOT be allowed or tolerated in the field or while we are on safari!!**
* **Any and all electronic items that you want to bring that need electricity must be rated for 220v or you must have a converter. *Even with a converter your gadgets may get fried*.**

Class Assignment Materials

* Notebook, paper, pencils, pens
* Journal - to be turned in and graded
* Course packet & reading materials

CLOTHES **(DO NOT PACK 3-WEEKS WORTH OF CLOTHES!!!!)**

Space is going to be limited. Pack for about 7 days. We’ll make arrangements for laundry service about once a week.

**[Bring natural earth-toned colored clothing (i.e. no bright colors);**

**No camouflage military-type clothing]**

* 5-7 short sleeve shirts/t‑shirts/tank-tops
* 2 long sleeve shirts
* Sweatshirt (mornings/evenings can be chilly) or:
* Lightweight fleece jacket (mornings/evenings can be chilly)
* 2 pairs of field pants/zip off pants
* 2 pairs of shorts
* Socks
* Windbreaker or raincoat
* Hat/cap
* Stocking cap and light gloves for the cool mornings
* 1 pair of light weight hiking boots
* 1 pair of sneakers/tennis shoes
* optional – 1 pair of sandals

TOILET ARTICLES

**(DO NOT pack full-sized items; get things in travel sizes or put in travel bottles)**

* Shampoo
* Liquid soap/body wash
* Tooth paste & tooth brush
* **Deodorant**
* Shaving cream & razors
* Small towel
* Kleenex/Handkerchief
* And anything else you normally use and can’t??? live without
* Medications (Immodium A‑D, Pepto, malaria, aspirin/tylenol/ibuprofen, etc. ‑ anything you think you might need)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

* you're allowed to check 1 bag at the airport, one carryon, and one personal item
* Insect repellent
* Sunglasses
* Sunscreen
* Supplemental snacks and/or food (gum, granola bars, candy bars, trail mix, etc.)
* Bottled water supplements (Cool-Aid, Tang, etc.)
* Personal first aid kit: tweezers, Band-Aids, Neosporin, antibiotic ointment, Cortaid
* Pocket knife – pack in checked luggage, do NOT put in your carry-on backpack
* Handi‑wipes or hand sanitizing gel
* Reference books on India: birds, mammals, amphibian & reptiles, plants, etc.
* Laundry bag – you might consider bringing a very light-weight bag that you can stuff with your dirty laundry.
* International Calling Cards – we suggest you wait until you get to India to purchase an international calling card(s).
* 3-pronged power adapter specific to India **(remember the adapter does not convert your electronic appliance to 220V.)**

Optional Items

* Picture Camera and/or Video Camera
* Extra memory chips for your digital camera (recommend at least a 16 gb chip)
* Extra batteries (camera, flashlight, etc.) – batteries in India are not the same quality as they are in the U.S.
* Inflatable travel/neck pillow

CARRY-ON Items

* All expensive electronic and other items – cameras, CD player/ipod, binoculars, etc.
* Travel pillow
* Reading materials
* Change of clothes, especially socks, t-shirt, and underwear, in case your luggage gets “misplaced”
* Deodorant, tooth brush, and tooth paste