I. Course Description

The course will go into specific details of the identities and diversities in India as we observe them in the contexts of the everyday life and experiences of the people. The course covers in large part the religious diversities and traditions as they are practiced among the Buddhists and Hindus respectively in the twin cities of Sarnath and Varanasi in India. Sarnath is the religious pilgrimage place for the Buddhists while Varanasi is the sacred place for practice of religious rituals by Hindus. In trying to explore the identity issues in India we will also explore the class diversity through observing and understanding the issues of street children and child labor. Finally, India’s historical background of Mughals and British history will provide a context for modern day issues of nation building processes which will also be studied in this course.

II. Course Objectives

1) Explore and analyze India’s Mughal and British history, from a period of riches to colonization and beyond
2) Formulate an understanding of the religious diversities, Buddhist and Hindu religious practices and approaches to life
3) Analyze the class diversity and social problems in India with a specific case and situation of child labor and street children in India.
4) Understand how complex social issues are programmatically explored by the non-profit interventions through observing their programs on comprehensive development

III. Course Text

3. Other readings will be assigned.
IV. Method of Instruction
Regular lectures and discussions will be employed to explore and understand the problems and issues to achieve the course objectives. This would entail open discussions and reflections on the topics. The field visits will be integral part of the learning process and students will be expected to be observant and inquisitive to learn, ask questions, and reflect throughout the course. The students and instructor will be expected to maintain basic respect for human values and dignity.

V. Grading and Assignments
Students are encouraged to actively participate throughout the course. Two weeks prior to leaving for the trip to India, we will meet two times every week for 3 hours and 40 minutes each time to develop a background understanding for the course. The rest of the contact hours will be in India.

Each student will be expected to submit the following assignments:
1) 2 reflections papers - the reflection papers will be on any one of the three topics: Buddhist and Hindu religious philosophy; Mughal history of India; Street children and development work in India.
2) Discussion questions: students will be expected to bring to class 2 discussion ideas or questions based on the sites/places we visit. We will do 3 such assignments.
3) Theoretical/concepts discussion: I will have 2 in class exams to test knowledge on the readings and theoretical aspects we discuss throughout the course in class.
4) In class presentation: Students will present on their learnings from the course in class.
5) 8-10 page research paper on a topic of student’s interest from India.

The following grading scale will be used in this course:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>76-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 &amp; below</td>
<td>F</td>
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VI. Classroom and University Policies

Students are expected to arrive on time for the class. In case you are late for class, you are still encouraged to join the class. However, please ensure that arriving late for class should not become a regular practice and without any just reason.

Adverse Weather Policy

If the university invokes the adverse weather policy, class will not be held. The material scheduled for the day on which adverse weather occurs will automatically be moved to the next class day. Please read University’s adverse weather policy for more details.

Academic Dishonesty

The University of North Carolina, Asheville categorizes cheating and plagiarism as academic dishonesty. You are expected to cite all information that is not your original idea. Please read the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty for more details and adhere to the policy.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of North Carolina, Asheville is committed to making courses, programs, and activities accessible to persons with documented disabilities. Students requiring reasonable accommodations must register with the Office of Academic Accessibility by providing supporting documentation. All information provided will remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Office of Academic Accessibility at (828) 232-5050 or academicaccess@unca.edu or visit them in OneStop Student Services Center.

Class Schedule

Overall for this course, every week we will cover one or two broad topics. The readings have been assigned for the classes. Students are expected to do their readings before class as the classroom discussions will be based on these readings.

1) 3 weeks prior to India trip (15 contact hours)
2) 1 week after return from India trip (27 contact hours)
3) During India trip (27 contact hours)