

Study abroad India

COMM 4890 (3 hours):

Special Topics in Communications:
Applying digital media to issues in
agriculture and the environment.

Areas of study:

- Conflicts between farming and nature
- Cultural differences affecting agriculture
- Field photography and video techniques
- Visualizing ag/environmental issues
- Synthesizing complex issues
- Constructing strong media messages
- Use of modern media channels

Tentative schedule (2017):

- Leave Atlanta (or Orlando) -- May 12
- Arrive Bangalore -- May 13
- Training in Mysore- May 14-16
- Western Ghats -- May 16-June 2
- Bangalore -- June 2-4
- Return through Paris -- June 5

Program cost:

\$5400 (in state students)
\$6225 (out of state students)

Fees include tuition, airfare from Atlanta (or possibly Orlando), lodging, meals, insurance, ground transportation, and tour admissions.

Not included: passport, visa or incidentals

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A mahout heads home with his elephant and her baby. Below, a mahout child climbs on an elephant.

A critical time for the future of elephants

Elephants were once seen as the living embodiment of Ganesha, the elephant-headed god. Now they are increasingly called the “elephant menace.”

That’s in part because Asian elephants and coffee plantations occupy the same range in the Western Ghats of southern India. As coffee cultivation has grown over the past 20 years, so have elephant conflicts.

Up to 300 people are killed by elephants each year in India, and as many as 200 endangered elephants die from human causes.

Yet elephants are strictly protected in India. They cannot be killed, cannot be sold to temples or circuses, and cannot be employed in logging or other jobs. Only three general solutions remain:

1. Erect barriers to prevent elephants from leaving public lands and entering private agricultural areas.

2. Capture troublesome elephants and place them in government care for the rest of their 80-year lifespan.

3. Develop elephant avoidance programs that allow humans, elephants and agriculture to co-exist.



Our project aims to restore positive attitudes toward elephants, work with farmers to build support for programs of co-existence, and inspire respect for the mahout society

that cares for captive elephants.

India can have coffee, and elephants, too.