Course Objectives

India, like many other developing countries, is in the midst of a prolonged period of economic and urban development. Such periods of growth have historically been accompanied by widespread environmental degradation all over the world. In recent times, the environmental consequences of such development booms have spawned healthy debates about the cost and benefits of economic and urban development. Globally there is heightened interest in development practices and patterns that capture most of the benefits of economic and urban development while minimizing harms to the environment. In this course students will be introduced to economic and urban development trends in Kerala, the environmental implications of many of those trends and importantly, how individuals and organizations have attempted (and in many cases succeeded) in facilitating environmentally sustainable development.

The course will focus on two facets of the sustainable development – low-cost housing and eco-tourism – at two different locations in Kerala (Kochi and Trivandrum).

This course will provide an extraordinary opportunity to advanced undergraduate and graduate students and other interested persons from Iowa, to travel to India, interact with highly acclaimed sustainable development professionals, and learn about many innovative sustainable development techniques.

Course Instructor

The course will be taught by Prof. Jerry Anthony, Associate Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Iowa.

Prof. Anthony teaches courses on housing policy, land use planning, smart growth and international urbanization. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture, a Master’s degree in Town Planning, and a Ph.D. in Urban & Regional Planning. He has published several papers on housing affordability, land use law and international drinking water policies. He has many years of professional planning experience in the public and private sectors. Anthony was trained as an architect in India. He has taught international courses in Mexico, India and Hong Kong and
will be teaching this Winterim course for the sixth time.

**Course Sponsors:**

This course is conducted in close collaboration with two organizations in Kerala – “Inspiration” located in the city of Kochi and “COSTFORD” located in Trivandrum. Inspiration (http://www.inspire-india.com/) has over 20 years of experience in nature-friendly and sustainable designs for hundreds of projects for clients ranging from individuals, businesses, corporations, governments, and NGOs. They have received state and national recognition and have won numerous national and international awards for sustainable eco-sensitive designs. They specialize in building authentic eco-tourism facilities. Inspiration’s team includes architects, planners, physical, engineering, management, natural resources, and biological science professionals.

![Inspiration’s Office in Kochi, Kerala](image)

COSTFORD is a non-profit located in Trivandrum (http://www.costford.com/). For almost four decades, COSTFORD has been developing cutting edge lower-cost construction technology, and building residential and institutional structures with them. Its expertise in this area has led to numerous awards from the government of India and the United Nations. COSTFORD’s efforts are guided by the design principles devised by one of its founders – Dr. Laurie Baker – a world renowned architect whose many accolades include the Order of the British Empire (1983), UNO Habitat Award & UN Roll of Honor (1992), Sir Robert Matthew Prize for Improvement of Human Settlements (1993), and the International Union of Architects Award (1993).
The two major partners of Inspiration, Mr. Jaigopal Rao and Ms. Latha Jaigopal and members of the leadership team at COSTFORD will collaborate closely with Professor Anthony to oversee and guide all aspects of the design and delivery of this course.

Course Structure
Students will work with Inspiration in Kochi and with COSTFORD in Trivandrum. Besides spending time in these two cities, students will visit national parks and scenic regions of the Western Ghat mountains. During the first part of the course, we will stay in Trivandrum and spend time looking at low-cost housing created using sustainable principles. We will then journey to Kochi to observe, discuss, and learn about the processes adopted by “Inspiration” in the development of a few of their sustainable development projects. In both places, architects, planners and development experts will present information about different facets of sustainability through selected past and current development projects, many of which we will visit. Thus, students will be able to develop a comprehensive understanding about sustainable development.

Sustainable principles in low-cost housing:
Good quality housing is a basic human need. However, it is not always available or if available is not priced at reasonable levels. This forces millions of families all over the world to live in bad quality or unaffordable housing, causing significant socio-economic, physical and financial problems. The scope and scale of the housing shortage is markedly greater in developing countries: one, because of the sheer number of people that need such housing, and two, because of the lack of public and private resources to address this need. These constraints have forced governments and non-profits in developing countries such as India to devise innovative lower-cost housing construction technologies that feature a high labor component, use many renewable resources, and have low impacts on the environment.

Sustainable principles in tourism:
The eco-tourism portion of the course will include a visit to a wildlife sanctuary/national park, tea plantation and tourism-oriented facilities. Students will meet with local entrepreneurs who have developed sustainable practices and services for in-country and international tourists. The notion of “ecotourism” as low impact visits to ecologically significant and beautiful landscapes will be explored.
During the course, students will gain a good understanding about sustainable water, sanitation, and energy practices and the process of integrating such practices within a holistic concept of resource management. Students will be expected to gain an appreciation of how sustainability works to protect the resources, enhance learning about local people and culture, and preserve the beauty of this state in southern India. Students will also be able to see, understand, and evaluate how several forms of commerce can be translated to achieve a sustainable world.

Course Requirements
You must be an active learner before we depart, while we are in India and after returning from India.

Prior to departure:
- Attend orientation meetings (via Skype for out-of-town students)
- Attend two Friday afternoon seminars (via Skype for out-of-town students)
- Read and/or view the required materials
- Set up a personal blog
- Write a short pre-trip reflection paper

During our stay in India:
- Attend all planned activities – talks, seminars, presentations and excursions
- Attend group de-briefing meetings each day
- Comply with all personal and group safety guidelines provided by the instructor
- Write a well-illustrated, informative and insightful blog entry every day of the trip
- Complete four short (2-3 page) papers
- Conduct research on a topic of the student’s choice but with prior approval of the instructor
- Present a summary of findings at half-day conferences in each of our host cities

After we return:
- Submit a 10-page research paper based on research conducted in Kerala
- Write a 400-500 word article for a newspaper in your home community (unless you have arranged to blog for the paper during the trip)
Tentative list of readings


Course Grade Determination (for graduate students):
20% Attendance at all seminars and five single-page reflection papers
20% Active engagement in discussions with students, hosts and instructor
20% Daily blog and paper on what you learned
5% Newspaper article
15% Conference participation/presentation in Kerala
20% Research paper
[Undergrad students are not required to do a research paper.]

Administrative Home:
International Programs, University College is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 111 Jessup Hall or see: http://uc.uiowa.edu/academics.

More Information:
• Contact Prof. Jerry Anthony at jerry-anthony@uiowa.edu or stop by his office (340 Jessup Hall) during his office hours (Monday, Wednesday, 10:30-12:00).

• This course can accommodate no more than 20 students. Typically we receive more applicants for the course than this. Applicants that demonstrate good academic preparation, strong motivation for studying abroad, are highly recommended and apply sooner than later stand a better chance of being selected for this course than those that do not. Study Abroad will maintain a waitlist and will notify any students who are waitlisted about next steps.
Study Abroad Information:

- **The application deadline is Monday, September 21st.** The India Winterim program application is available on the Study Abroad web site (under the “Application” tab): [http://international.uiowa.edu/india-winterim](http://international.uiowa.edu/india-winterim). UI students submit their applications through an online form to Study Abroad. Students from other colleges/universities, please visit the web site for application instructions.

- Students may contact Study Abroad advisor Cory Petersen to discuss the application process, scholarships, and financial aid. To schedule an appointment, please call Study Abroad at 319-335-0353 (M-F, 8-5) and the receptionist who answers the phone can help you set up an appointment with Cory in International Programs, 1111 University Capitol Centre.

- For information about scholarships and financial aid, go to [http://international.uiowa.edu/study-abroad/funding](http://international.uiowa.edu/study-abroad/funding).

Map of India locating Kerala (identified by the star)