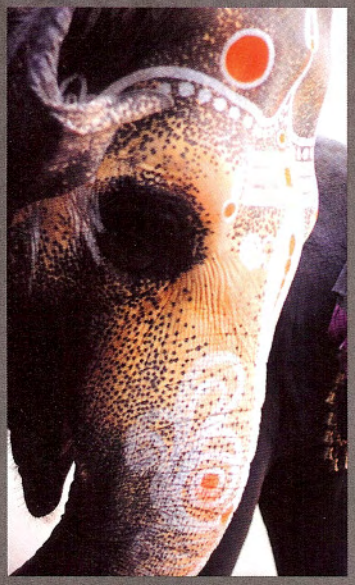


The curriculum consists of two required courses:

- Contemporary India
- Directed Research/Internship

In addition, students take two 3-credit electives in the following areas:

- Social Justice
- Environmental Issues
- Public Health
- Development Economics
- Nation, Caste, and Gender Through Film
- Hindi Language

Students may choose to take a third elective for a total of 18 credits; the basic curriculum yields 15 credits.

In addition to regular courses, the program offers students the option of taking co-curricular, non-credit classes in yoga, Kathak dance or Bharatnatyam, classical vocals, a musical instrument, or other cultural activity.

Curriculum

SOCI 360 Contemporary India *(3 credits)*

A political, historical, and social survey of post-Independence India as a complex yet unified multi-cultural, multi-linguistic, religiously pluralistic democracy, a rising major global power and soon to be the world's most populous country.

This course gives students the ability to understand what they are seeing around them, on the news and in the newspapers, contextualized within a historical framework. Topics include: colonialism, nationalism, and independence; Gandhi, social activism and the 1960s; gender and caste; 20th century literary, religious and philosophical movements, and recent history from 1990 to the present.

INTS/DIRR 380 & METH 380 Internship or Directed Research *(3 credits each, 6 total)*

The first component of this intensive internship or directed research, conducted during the coursework period, is dual training in field research methods and Marathi language for research purposes.

The second component of this course, for students who wish to pursue internships, includes placements within Pune's most exciting NGOs, multi-national businesses, IT companies, cultural organizations, research institutes and think tanks. Students who choose to pursue directed field research are paired with a faculty member or other expert in the area of their interest, including but not limited to: performing arts; photojournalism or documentary film-making; tribal, environmental or women's issues, public health, or text-based historical research.

Students are expected to spend at least 20 hours a week at their internship or in active research. Both internships and directed research projects are conducted under close academic supervision and require a faculty-approved reading list, weekly meetings with their faculty advisor, and a final research paper or project.

SOCJ 365 Social Justice *(3 credits)*

Social justice movements in India may be most widely known through the iconic figures of Mahatma Gandhi and B.K. Ambedkar, but there is a rich and diverse tradition of Indian social justice theory and action dating from the British Raj era to modern Dalit, tribal, and women's movements.

This course offers students an overview of social justice thought and activism in India, especially as they have evolved through nationalism and the freedom struggle, 20th-century political and social movements, and contemporary economic, caste, and gender disparities. Students acquire the analytical and critical tools to carefully think through issues of marginalization, equity, development, and human rights in their contemporary Indian and global context.

ESEI 380 Environmental Issues *(3 credits)*

India's ongoing population explosion, along with its steady march toward urbanization and industrialization, has placed significant pressure on its land and natural resources. The critical environmental issues that India grapples with each day affect not only India but the rest of the world, too, and environmental issues in both developing and industrialized nations are assuming an increasingly urgent status on the global agenda.

This course exposes students to environmental issues both from an Indian and global perspective, exploring natural, social, economic and political facets of these complex yet pressing concerns, as well as culturally-specific and global strategies for addressing them.

HSPH 300 Public Health *(3 credits)*

Public health is a crucial component of a nation's development and infrastructure, yet with a lack of basic medical care in many parts of India, widespread malnutrition and high infant mortality, rising HIV rates and ever-present threats of infectious disease and epidemics, India faces unique and daunting challenges. At the same time, India is in many cases on the cutting edge of finding creative, innovative solutions to these large-scale public health issues that are of growing global significance.

This course takes a multidisciplinary approach to public health in India, requiring students to carefully interrogate how social, political,

and economic factors facilitate or mitigate the production and transmission of disease, and to evaluate ethical and practical consequences of policy and scientific initiatives.

CSNF 350 Nation, Caste, and Gender through Film *(3 credits)*

Indian cinema is over 100 years old and the largest film industry in the world. Though best known through the Hindi-language production powerhouses of Bollywood, Indian films are produced in over 17 languages with a wide and diverse range of subjects and genres.

This course provides a critical overview of post-Independence Indian cinema, with a particular focus on social and political ideologies embedded in representations of nation, caste, and gender. Students examine how this popular cultural form has served as an important vehicle for disseminating and constructing Indian national identity, and by identifying subtexts of gender, caste, class and religion as portrayed in Indian cinema, students develop important analytical tools for understanding contemporary Indian culture through film and visual media.

ECDE 390 Development Economics *(3 credits)*

For students with interests in business, economics, development studies, and international affairs, the Indian economy serves as a complex, fascinating example of high technology, expanding trade, vibrant entrepreneurship, and a highly-skilled workforce, co-existing in sometimes tenuous balance with widespread poverty, social inequality, and critical gaps in health care, education, and infrastructure.

This course explores how India is seeking to address and reconcile these disparities, focusing on technological change, political economy, trade, social entrepreneurship and microfinance, and international aid as they are managed and applied within contemporary India.

Beginning Hindi, HIND 100/Intermediate Hindi, HIND 200 *(3 credits)*

Fundamentals of conversation and written Hindi, for beginning or intermediate students.

Faculty and Academic Council

Alliance faculty are drawn primarily from the University of Pune, Fergusson College, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), and several of the prominent think tanks, research institutes, and NGOs that give Pune its academic cache.

In addition to drawing upon the best of Pune's scholarly community to serve as instructors for our courses, the Alliance has formed a Pune Academic Council that brings together many of Pune's most prominent intellectuals and leaders in the local business, NGO, and performing arts communities to guide and advise the academic portion of the program, open doors to internship opportunities, and assist in introducing Alliance students to Pune's most interesting and dynamic areas.

Please visit the Alliance website for listings of current Pune Academic Council members.

Resident Directors

The Alliance employs full-time resident staff who coordinate all aspects of program operations and are always available to assist students with academic, cultural, and personal issues throughout the duration of the program.

Prashant Kothadiya, *Resident Director*

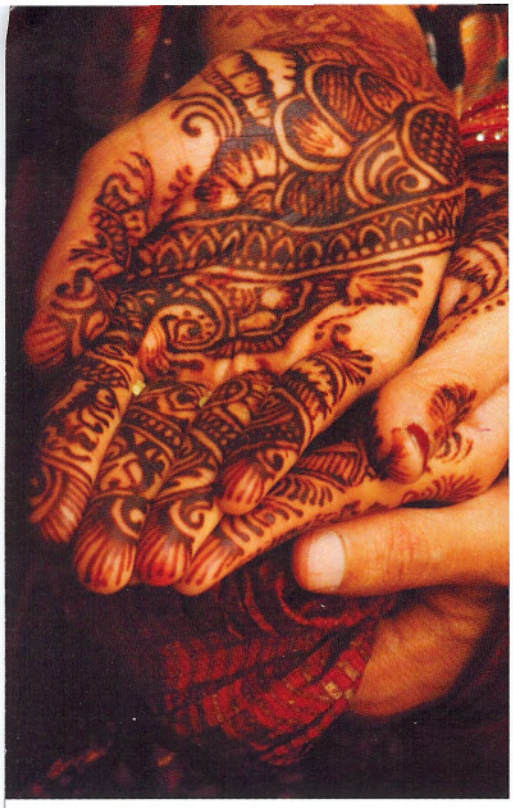
A well-known educator, social activist, and journalist in Maharashtra, Prashant Kothadiya brings to the Alliance over ten years of study abroad program management in India, as well as extensive experience in Indian higher

Summer Program

The Alliance's Pune summer program offers an 8-week, 8-credit intensive version of the semester program, incorporating coursework and internships with field visits, cultural activities, and homestays.

In addition, the Pune summer program brings in high-caliber U.S.-based faculty to teach one focused seminar. These are faculty who are engaged in active research on South Asia, and summer students are thus actively exposed to and engaged in the most contemporary and cutting-edge scholarship in the field.

Program development on the Pune summer program and other summer opportunities is actively underway, so please visit the Alliance website for the most up-to-date information!



Program Center

The program is based at Fergusson College, one of India's oldest and most prestigious liberal arts colleges. Founded by nationalist leaders in 1885, and counting two prime ministers among its alumni, Fergusson enjoys a beautiful green campus in the thriving, centrally-located Deccan Gymkhana neighborhood. Alliance students are able to enjoy the best of campus life while having a welcoming program base dedicated to Alliance courses and activities.

Student Housing

The Alliance offers a range of housing placements, from apartments with Indian student roommates to semi-autonomous living arrangements with Indian host families. As a university town, many types of housing placements are possible in Pune, and students are matched according to stated preferences and availability.

education and development work with regional, national and international NGOs.

A Pune native and committed international educator, Prashant is well-connected within academic, non-profit, and performing arts communities, and shares the Alliance's vision of introducing U.S. undergraduates to contemporary India though the lens of development issues, environmental studies, public health, and related disciplines.

Uttaraa Jadhav, *Assistant Resident Director*

With over five years of experience in study abroad management in India and a strong professional background in business administration and information technology, Uttaraa also brings to the Alliance a demonstrated commitment to high academic standards as consultant to the University of Pune's NAAC Project for Performance Excellence in Higher Education.

A Pune native, Uttara has strong ties both to business and the performing arts, and with her strong interpersonal skills and prior experience in international education, is a ready listener and good advisor to students on cultural adjustment matters.

Semester Structure, Orientation, and Travel

The 16–17 week semester begins with a week-long orientation at a retreat location outside Pune. Students are acclimated to their new environment through introductory lectures on Indian culture, training on health and safety, and language classes.

After transferring to Pune and settling into their new home, students begin a 10–11 week coursework period. After the completion of coursework, the final month of the program is spent in internships or directed research.

The semester concludes with a 3–4 day final closing seminar at which research is presented and discussed, and students are prepared for re-entry or further travel on the subcontinent.

Field visits during the semester include a long-weekend urban field visit to Mumbai to explore this sprawling, diverse megalopolis, as well as a 3–4 day stay in a rural village, still representative of how a majority of Indians live. In addition, during the program there are several day-outings to various points of interest in and around Pune.

One weekend is set aside for independent travel, and students will have the opportunity for further travel after the program's conclusion.