Beginning Hindi
HIND 1000-1500 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
India: National Identity and the Arts

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description
All SIT programs have an important language component as part of the overall cultural immersion experience. After English and Chinese, Hindi-Urdu is the most widely spoken language on the planet. Hindi is the national language of India and is spoken in most of North India and as far south as Hyderabad. Hindi knowledge is essential if you plan on doing your ISP in North India. Hindi has many English loanwords and there are also significant numbers of Hindi loan words in English such as pajama, shampoo, cushy, jungle, bungalow or bandana.

Although an Indo-European language, Hindi poses distinct challenges for the English speaker as it uses a distinctive script (Devanagari) and much of its vocabulary lacks easily identifiable English cognates. However, it is quite easy to pronounce: what you see in devanagari is what you get! Hindi is grammatically difficult and you must sincerely commit to learning.

This beginning level language course in Hindi is designed to prepare students for the daily social demands of living in India. Your obvious sincere efforts to learn Hindi will be appreciated by Indians who see this effort as a sign of respect and cultural sensitivity. You will not become fluent in only one semester, but if you work hard you will be functional by Independent Study Project (ISP) and pleased with your new skills.

Language Levels and Placement
Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews conducted during orientation in India.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, Beginning Hindi students are expected to be able to:
- Understand and use basic grammatical structures necessary for rudimentary conversation and polite greetings;
- Communicate information about daily functions, such as eating, sleeping, travelling, studying;

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- Understand and use vocabulary for basic objects, places, foods, clothing, immediate family terms, basic colors, numbers, months, days of the week, as well as limited control of a few common verb forms;
- Express likes and dislikes;
- Understand and use common adjectives;
- Express opposites such as good/bad, and hot/cold;
- Ask for directions, explain a simple medical need, negotiate a bargain;
- Negotiate simple transactions in the home stay;
- Develop rudimentary reading and writing in script, read roadside signs, etc.

Course Requirements
In this 3 credit course, students cover material equivalent to a semester long, non-intensive course in Introductory Hindi. There are approximately 30 days of Hindi classes, in addition to two examination days. Attendance at classes is a minimum requirement. **Attendance at daily office hours is mandatory, if teachers request a student's presence.**

Throughout the semester, students are expected to collect vocabulary useful for their ISP Projects. Students should frequently meet with the Hindi Instructors to verify spelling and usage before transferring rough material to an ISP Hindi phrase and vocabulary notebook. In addition to completing nightly written assignments, students must scan the next day's material the night before. Students are expected to practice speaking with their homestay families and in everyday interactions.

After arrival, Hindi students will be tested and then placed in small groups according to their level and assigned appropriate reading material. Throughout the semester, various materials will be assigned to complement the materials covered in class and on field visits. These materials will help to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. Students will give presentations in class and will be sent into the community to put their studies into practice.

Textbook
The textbook used for this course is *Introduction to Hindi Grammar* (Usha Jain, UC Berkeley, 1995). The textbook focuses on exclusive use of Hindi script, limits introduction of idioms and comprehensively teaches grammatical structures with limited vocabulary by means of structural drills. Jain’s communicative and structurally based approach is well suited to the needs of short-term students living in a Hindi-speaking environment wishing to acquire a solid university level foundation of Hindi grammar. In addition, a practical “survival” Hindi text will be used.

Daily Class Schedule (minimum of 1.5 contact hours daily)
- Classes are scheduled from 9:00 - 11:00.
- Every class will begin with a short quiz of five vocabulary words and two translation sentences.
- Students are responsible for 25 vocabulary terms a week. Four daily words and one “word of the day.”
- There will be one written and one oral mid-term exam. There will be one written and one oral final exam.

Classes start promptly at 9:00 AM
9:00-10:00: Quiz and grammar class
10:00-10:15: Coffee Break
10:15-11:00: Drills
Office Hours 2:00-3:00, M-F

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**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**
Instructors evaluate each student's performance based on observation, written exercises, quizzes and exams given throughout the course. Final grades are assigned by the Academic Director in consultation with the language instructors on the basis of each instructor's evaluation, each student's own self-evaluation, and the Academic Director's observation of each student's participation in classes and their efforts to use the language outside of the classroom.

**Oral Proficiency Interview**
Final oral proficiency interviews are conducted toward the end of the semester to provide a measurement of students' overall linguistic progress. Thus, the course grade provides an assessment of students' performance in meeting the requirements.

**Methods of Evaluation**

**Hindi Pre-departure Preparation (10%)**
Memorization of Devanagari script, with quiz on arrival in Delhi.

**Daily Quizzes/Written Homework/Oral Work (30%)**
A brief simple quiz (approximately 5-10 minutes) will be held daily. The quiz will cover recent grammar and five vocabulary terms. Nightly homework assignments reinforce the oral material taught through classroom drills. **All written assignments** are to be completed in pencil, so that mistakes may be cleanly erased. **A clean copy in a neat hand is expected. Illegible handwriting will be graded down. Indians value neat handwriting as a mark of education and culture. Evidence of daily study and engagement in class will be taken into account.**

**Two Oral Examinations, averaged together (20%)**
Teachers will quiz students for oral competency on a one-to-one basis.

**Two Written Examinations, averaged together (20%)**
Each cumulative exam will be one hour. Please see the semester schedule for details.

**Hindi Project Workbook (20%)**
Each student should put together a notebook with interesting and useful phrases and vocabulary pertinent to his/her ISP research. This can be creative and fun, but should be a consistent daily effort to encourage creative independent language learning. Students will be graded for initiative, determination, vocabulary and grammar. This should be related to the ISP research.

*The final grade is determined as follows:*

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<tr>
<th>Hindi Pre-departure Script Preparation</th>
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<tr>
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<td>20%</td>
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**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

- 94-100% A
- 90-93% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 84-86% B
- 80-83% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 74-76% C

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Grading Criteria
An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of class participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all academic seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of student participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Expectations and Policies
Class attendance is mandatory and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student’s participation grade.

Show up prepared. Be on time, have your assignments completed and points in mind for clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. Teachers are highly respected in India. Your polite and engaged behavior is expected.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences of opinion (classmates’, teachers’). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the program handbook given to you at Orientation.