

**Travel Seminar to Mysore, India  
with Skidmore Faculty**

For information on the cost and travel logistics of AH200/RE230, contact Lisa Hobbs in Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE) in Starbuck 202, or at 580-5355 or lhobbs@skidmore.edu.

For course content, academic requirements, and the Honors Forum Program, contact Prof. Smith at jsmith@skidmore.edu or Prof. Linrothe at rlinroth@skidmore.edu.



*"It is unlikely that Hinduism was ever a static religion. Even in recent memory it has witnessed the growth of two cults which are adaptations of old forms....[T]he ritual behaviors of the Hindus will, hopefully, continue to be as chaotic as it is today."*

Dilip Chakrabarti, "The Archaeology of Hinduism"



**SKIDMORE**  
C O L L E G E

*Hindu Religion and Art*



*"A sacred place is a place  
where two worlds intersect."*

Shrivatsa Goswami and Margaret H. Case.

**Faculty-Led Travel Seminar to  
Mysore, India**

*December 27, 2008 – January 17, 2009*

---

**FACULTY:**

**PROF. JOEL SMITH**  
(jsmith@skidmore.edu)

**PROF. ROB LINROTHER**  
(rlinroth@skidmore.edu)

---

## Travel Seminar to Mysore, India

“Hindu Religion and Art / On-Site” is a three credit travel seminar (HF200/300), with a one-credit preparation course. Hinduism is a living religion with many different dimensions, including ritual practice, narrative and philosophical texts, architecture, and imagery. The course will explore how the religious and visual aspects intersect, and how the lived religion relates to its long historical development. Both the contemporary and the archaeological will be approached through direct observations and study at village, pilgrimage, urban and royal temples, and in personal shrines.

## Course Schedule

In Fall 2008, there is a required one-credit course for all those participating in the Hindu Religion and Art on-site course (HF200 for sophomores; HF300 for juniors and seniors). Students will meet once a week to begin preparations for the intensive on-site projects.

## Why Mysore?

The On-Site seminar is based in Mysore, in the state of Karnataka, south India. This storied former capital of the Mysore kingdom remains central to several historical Hindu and artistic traditions. The town still supports a rich, active, and religiously-diverse atmosphere. The great Hoysala monuments (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries) are very close-by, and the capital complex of the Vijayanagara Empire (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) is an overnight train ride away. Some of the earliest rock-cut and constructed Hindu temples in all of India are also within range (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c.). Both the Vijayanagara (Hampi) and the Pattadakal groups of monuments are recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage sites. December-January in Karnataka is ideal in terms of climate, so Mysore will comfortably allow us to develop a sense of the diversity of Hindu religious practice, and the evolution of artistic practice which developed alongside ritual requirements.

## Preliminary Travel Schedule

Subject to change

- December 27: Flight to Bangalore, India
- December 28: Arrive in Bangalore, bus to Coorg
- December 29-30: Orientation, welcome dinner, Siva temple
- December 31: Bus to Mysore; Chamundi Hill, Mysore Palace, talk by local scholar
- January 1: Day trip to active temples of Nanjangud and Ayyappa, then Somnathpur temple
- January 2: Class discussion of Somnathpur with local archaeologist; afternoon, Devaraja market
- January 3: Bus to Belur temple; overnight in Hassan
- January 4: Halebid temple; evening bus to Mysore
- January 5: Class discussion of Belur and Halebid with local archaeologist
- January 6: Discussion of historical dimensions of Hampi; early evening train (transfer in Bangalore) to Hampi
- January 7-8: Morning arrival at Hampi; archaeological museum, Durga shrine, river walk, Vijayanagara temples and royal enclosure; active Virupaksha temple.
- January 9-10: Bus to Badami caves, temples, archaeological museum
- January 11: Aihole and nearby temples
- January 12: Pattadakal and nearby temples; evening overnight train to Bangalore
- January 13: Return to Mysore, class discussion with archaeologists on Hampi, Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal
- January 14: Day trip to Mandya district Hoysala temple
- January 15: Morning prep for final presentations to be given in afternoon; pm Farewell Dinner
- January 16: Remainder of Final presentations
- January 17: Bus to Bangalore – Return to US

## Skidmore Faculty

**Joel R. Smith**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, earned advanced degrees at Vanderbilt University. His specializations include Philosophy of Religion, Comparative Philosophy, Existentialism, Buddhism and Hinduism. He has frequently traveled to both north and south India and has directed the Skidmore-in-India semester-long program in North India.

**Rob Linrothe**, Associate Professor of Art History, received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. His academic research specialty is Tantric art, and he has spent a considerable amount of time in India for research and teaching purposes.

## Anticipated Costs

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Mysore is \$4,000 (may fluctuate). This includes roundtrip airfare from New York to Bangalore, all ground transportation in India, on-site accommodations with double occupancy, three meals a day, medical insurance, entrance fees, local guides, Skidmore faculty on-site, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include transportation to departure point nor personal expenses.

## Application

Applications are available from OCSE in Starbuck Center 202 or online on the OCSE webpage. Application Deadline is **April 3, 2008**. Applicants are required to submit a \$250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program. (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to program fee.