

Sri Lanka



Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Fall Intersession • August 3-14, 2014

Course Name: **Intersection of Sri Lankan Culture, Agriculture and Wildlife (Human/Elephant Conflict)**

Course Number: **AGS 399** OR **IDS 397**
OR **AGS 712**

Credit Hours: **3** undergraduate/graduate

Course Overview & Objectives:

Informed choices require knowledge of what people have done and imagined, currently as well as historically. Choices are also tempered by knowledge of the social and cultural settings in which they are made or were made in the past. This learning includes the following:

- to identify historical, social, and cultural events that shaped Sri Lankan national identity and culture, as well as distinctive regional or minority identities and cultures
- to recognize important Sri Lankan cultural figures, and their more representative works, who have influenced Sri Lanka cultural products such as art, letters, and folklore
- to improve critical thinking, research, organizational, and presentation skills
- to explore aspects of historical and modern-day Sri Lanka and Agriculture and Wildlife's influence on culture and the world
- to obtain an understanding of the current events and key issues and concerns facing Sri Lankan society

Program Fee: \$3,915

Program Fee Includes: Round-trip airfare, lodging, all breakfasts, all lunches, four dinners, Study Away student fee, basic medical insurance; separated costs not available.

Program Fee Excludes: Passport, ground transportation in Springfield, a few dinners, incidentals/misc personal expenses, and souvenirs. \$612/741 MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate/graduate credit. Both Missouri residents and non-residents pay the Mo. resident per-credit-hour tuition rate, per University policy.

Applications are due by May 2, 2014.

A **nonrefundable deposit of \$590 will be billed to your student account.** Please see Application & Payment Procedures for MSU and Visiting Students on reverse.

Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid

Students may apply for the William H. Darr School of Agriculture Study Away scholarship. Applications are due to the Study Away office by July 11, 2014. Please see the scholarship page on the Study Away website. Additionally, students who receive financial aid may apply aid to this program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Informational Meeting:
TBA

Application Due:
May 2, 2014

Pre-Travel Orientation:
August 1, 2014

Depart Springfield for Sri Lanka:
August 3, 2014

Return to Springfield:
August 14, 2014

Post-Travel Meeting:
August 16, 2014

Interested in going?

Contact the Program Director,
Dennis Schmitt, Department of
Agriculture; 417-836-5091 or
DennisSchmitt@MissouriState.edu

Study Away!

The logo for the Study Away program features the words "Study" and "Away!" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The "y" in "Study" and the "y" in "Away!" are stylized with a blue and white globe icon at their base.

Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

An EO/AA Institution

Missouri State University Study Away Programs
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P: 417-836-6368 • E: StudyAway@MissouriState.edu
W: <http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/>

Course Schedule & Itinerary

The travel outlined below is essential to understand the history of the development of the culture of a unique people, culture, and the resultant conflict between wildlife and agriculture in a country which is coming out of a twenty year civil war.

PRE-TRAVEL

August 1, 2014: Pre-trip Orientation (Dr. Dennis Schmitt) 2 hours; Geography of Sri Lanka, Agricultural zones, Wildlife in Sri Lanka, Elephants as a cultural icon in Sri Lanka

STUDY TOUR

August 3-5, 2014: Travel to Sri Lanka, Arrive in Colombo, early morning. Travel to Kandy.

August 6-7, 2014: Kandy - Visit Temple of the Tooth, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Peradeniya University, Dept. of Zoology; Lecture by Dr. Rajah (Senior Veterinarian, National Zoo at PEO); Lecture by Dr. Charles Santiapillai (Emeritus Professor) on Wildlife in Sri Lanka

August 8-10, 2014: Mihintale - Travel to Minneriya, Rajarata University, Historic Cultural Sites in the Cultural Triangle, Ringling Bros. Center for Asian Elephant Research, Minneriya National Park, local villages affected by HEC, Department of Wildlife Training Center; Lectures by various personnel including Dr. Santiapillai, Dr. Mohan, Rajarata university professors and Wildlife Officers.

August 11-12, 2014: Uda Walawa National Park and Elephant Transit Home. Lecture by Dr. Santiapillai and Dr. Vijitha Peera on raising elephant orphans and releasing them back to the wild, Human Elephant Conflict and unique strategies to reduce HEC in ETH elephants.

August 13, 2014: Return to Colombo for trip home.

August 14, 2014: Return to Missouri State University in Springfield.

POST-TRAVEL

August 16, 2014: Missouri State University – Post-trip debriefing, (Dr. Dennis Schmitt) 2 hours; Submission of Journals kept on trip by all students due August 23, 2014 (Graded); Graduate level students will have White Paper due by September 9, 2014 (Graded); Exit Interview (Not Graded)

Course Credit & Requirements

Students will be graded based upon the content and organization of daily journals. AGS 712 students will also be required to complete a reflection paper discussing their experience and summarizing findings and observations from their journal with references on “the effects of HEC on agriculture and elephants in Sri Lanka.”

- **Paper:** Position paper with references for AGS 712 students which will be at least 15 pages discussing the current status of HEC in Sri Lanka and potential solutions. Paper due September 9, 2014.
- **Reflection:** A daily journal will be required which will include the influence of that day's activities regarding the objectives of the course. Students will discuss how the general education goals outlined have been met and list specific activities (at least one per goal) that address each goal. Grading will be equally weighed on content and organization of material. Journals due August 23, 2014

Required Text: *The Rough Guide to Sri Lanka*. ISBN 9781848360693 (digital version - 9781405380782)

Application & Payment Procedures

This program is open to students of any academic major, as well as to interested members of the community. There are no prerequisites, other than approval by the Program Director. Instructions are included on the program application.

MSU Students: A non-refundable deposit of \$590 will be billed to your University account upon application (deadline May 2, 2014). You will receive a second billing on June 6, 2014 and a final billing on July 7, 2014, for the balance of the program fee (\$3,325). MSU course tuition (\$612/741) will be billed to your University account and is due according to the university payment plan.

Visiting Students: A non-refundable deposit of \$590 (check or money order) must accompany your application (deadline May 2, 2014). A check or money order for the **balance of the program fee (\$3,325) will be due by July 7, 2013**. MSU course tuition (\$612/741) will be billed to your University account and is due according to the university payment plan.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY AWAY PROGRAM, THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE PROGRAM FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 25, 2014. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ONLINE OR AT THE BURSAR'S OFFICE. Estimated program fees are based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change. Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% if rates increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies

- Students who withdraw prior to June 30, 2014 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$590 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after June 30, 2014 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$590 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after June 30, 2014, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, no refunds will be issued under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and Director of Study Away Programs at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.

