

# Global Impact Program Course

Spring Semester, 2010

Class meeting time: Sunday, 6-9 pm

Professor Anne Balsamo

Interactive Media Division Co-Design Lab

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## Introduction and Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to prepare students who are part of the USC Stevens Institute for Innovation—Global Impact Program—to carry out an innovative project in India during the summer of 2010.

The course meetings will be used to introduce students to the practices of social entrepreneurship and to techniques of innovative thinking and project creation. Central to the process of innovation is the ability to think across disciplinary divides, to express ideas in different modalities, and to engage different intelligences. For this reason, students will work in small teams, to gain experience and practice in learning how to collaborate ethically and creatively with people who hold different assumptions and bring different domains of expertise to the innovative process.

This course will involve readings, lectures, discussion, creative thinking exercises and creative prototyping activities to address the following learning objectives:

- 1) Students will gain an understanding of the key aspects of social entrepreneurship
- 2) Students will be introduced to the geopolitical context of the intended projects
- 3) Students will learn techniques for creating new ideas in collaborative group settings
- 4) Students will develop several ideas that illustrate innovative thinking for proposed projects
- 5) Students will create a team-based project proposal
- 6) Students will prepare for travel to India during the Summer 2010

## Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Punctuality is also expected.

## **Class Sessions**

- 1/22 Class 1: Introduction to Spring Semester**  
Course logistics: Explain course objectives  
Introduce Anne Balsamo as GIP faculty, 2010
- 1/29 Class 2: Introduction to Deshpande Foundation**
- 2/7 Class 3: What Needs Doing in the World?**  
Review and Discussion of Ashota Social Entrepreneurship video cases
- 2/15 Class 4: Listening to Others, Listening to the World**  
Review and Discussion of the 9 Challenges presented by the Deshpande Foundation
- 2/21 Class 5: The Process of Creating New Ideas**  
Brainstorm possible ideas for 1-page proposals  
    Multiplying good ideas  
    Thinking in Collaboration  
    Thinking across disciplines  
    The Ethics of Collaboration  
    The Importance of Divergent Thinking  
    Avoiding Group think
- 2/28 Class 6: Guest Speaker: R. Sampath**  
“Bottom of the pyramid Needs in India”
- 3/7 Class 7: Guest Speaker: Sumi Pendakur**  
Kannata Language Lesson  
NOTE: Anne will be gone this day
- 3/21 Class 8: Iterate on Proposals: Present to Juan Felipe**
- 3/28 Class 9: Iterate on Proposals: Create drafts to send to Deshpande**
- 4/5 Class 10: Guest Speaker:**  
**NOTE CHANGE OF DAY: MONDAY**
- 4/11 Class 11: Guest Speaker:**
- 4/18 Class 12: Communicating Clearly (Anne)**  
Establishing Communication Protocols for Teams and Networks
- 4/25 Class 13: Guest Speaker: Varun Soni**  
“Religion in India”

**5/2 Class 14: Guest Speaker: Marjorie Miller**  
“Adapting to a Foreign Country”

**5/9 Class 15: Getting Ready to Travel**  
Rehearse project plans  
Review travel logistics  
Review communication protocols  
Review team responsibilities  
Review program deliverables (final reports)  
Review trouble scenario responses

