

State University of New York College at Cortland
Communication Disorders and Sciences Department
 SAB 329 W: A clinical and cultural experience in Sri Lanka
 Frequency Code: W
COURSE SYLLABUS

<u>Course information</u> Credit hours: 3 Sem./year: Winter 2026 Location: PRST1101 Time:	<u>Professor information</u> Name: Nimisha Muttiah, PhD & Deborah Sharp, PhD Office: PRST 2204 Office hours: TBD E-mail:	<u>Dean information</u> Dean (Interim): Dr. Lynn MacDonald Associate Dean: Dr. Eileen Gravani Location: Professional Studies Bldg Phone: (607) 753-2701
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Observe children with disabilities, collaborate with pre-service speech-language pathology students and other multidisciplinary professionals and have a cultural and linguistic immersive experience in Sri Lanka.

About the setting

Sri Lanka is a multicultural and multilingual country. It has a rich history and heritage. Sri Lanka is a low-and middle-income country (LMIC). As it has been established, a majority of individuals with disabilities live in LMICs. The Department of Disability Studies is the only department in the country that has a training program for speech-language pathology and occupational therapy. The Ayati clinic is the university clinic that is part of the Department of Disability Studies. Currently, there are 11,000 children registered at the clinic who seek a variety of clinical and educational services. All services provided through Ayati are provided free of charge. Students will have an opportunity to observe children with disabilities, to observe sessions conducted by pre-service speech-language pathology students and other multidisciplinary professionals, and to develop low-technology materials for these children. Additional excursions include popular sightseeing attractions to places that have historical and cultural importance.

Student Learning Objectives: Students will,

1. Describe speech therapy/communication/swallowing therapy sessions for individuals with communication disabilities living in a low-and middle-income country (LMIC).
2. Describe the use of low-cost therapy intervention material with individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
3. Identify the needs of individuals with communication disabilities living in a low-and middle-income country (LMIC).
4. Describe the cultural, historical and linguistic aspects specific to Sri Lanka.

Required Readings: TBD

***COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A. Pre-Departure orientation: 5% of the grade. Post any thoughts/questions/concerns you have regarding this study abroad on the Discussion posts following your orientation. Deadline: TBD prior to departure.

B. Attendance- 20% of the course grade. All activities including those on the itinerary are mandatory. Students must remain with the group during the entire travel period except when an exception is requested and approved by the instructor in advance of the tour departure.

C. Journal - 50% of the course grade. Based on the personal reflections and observations on the trip submit a day-to-day record of your experiences. Describe and provide reactions to the places and people that you encounter and how they challenge your view of the country and the ideals disability and its intersection with culture. This journal can be in the format of a Paddlet (with photos and text), a blog, vlog, or a podcast or other similar medium. Deadline: TBD

D. Presentation – 25% of the grade. Students will complete a presentation based on their experience of this study abroad opportunity. This will include presenting on both their clinical and cultural experiences. They will have options to choose where they would like to do their presentation (e.g., NYSSHLA etc).

Itinerary :

Date	Description
1/4	Travel to Sri Lanka from US
1/6	Arrival in Sri Lanka, transfer to hotel
1/7	Orientation Tour of Colombo
1/8	Visit to Ayati clinic
1/9	Visit to Ayati clinic
1/10	Visit to Ayati clinic
1/11	Visit to Ayati clinic
1/12	Visit to Ayati clinic
1/13	Travel to Kandy
1/14	Kandy
1/15	Return from Kandy
1/16	Visit to Ayati clinic

1/17	Visit to Ayati clinic
1/18	Travel to Galle
1/19	Travel to Galle
1/20	Return to US

Additional College Policy & Student Assistance Information:

Prior Felony Conviction Notice: State University of New York (SUNY) policy prohibits SUNY Cortland admission applications from inquiring into an applicant's prior criminal history. After acceptance, the College shall inquire if the student previously has been convicted of a felony if such individual seeks campus housing or participation in clinical or field experiences, internships or study abroad programs. The information required to be disclosed under SUNY policy regarding such felony convictions shall be reviewed by a standing campus committee consistent with the legal standards articulated in New York State Corrections Law.

Students who have previously been convicted of a felony are advised that their prior criminal history may impede their ability to complete the requirements of certain academic programs and/or to meet licensure requirements for certain professions. Students who have concerns about such matters are advised to contact the dean's office of their intended academic program.

Students with Disabilities: As part of SUNY Cortland's commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment, we strive to provide students with equal access to all courses. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations and notify the course instructor of any approved accommodations. If you believe you will require accommodations in this course, please place a request with the Disability Resources Office at disability.resources@cortland.edu or call 607-753-2967.

Please note that accommodations are generally not provided retroactively so timely contact with the Disability Resources Office is important. All students should consider meeting with their course instructor who may be helpful in other ways (College Handbook, Chapter 745). Additional information can be accessed at: <http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/student-development-center/disability-services/>.

Diversity Statement: SUNY Cortland is dedicated to the premise that every individual is important in a unique way and contributes to the overall quality of the institution. We define diversity broadly to include all aspects of human difference. The University is committed to inclusion, equity, and access and thus committed to creating and sustaining a climate that is equitable, respectful and free from prejudice for students, faculty and staff. We value diversity in the learning environment and know that it enhances our ability to inspire students to learn, lead and serve in a changing world. We are committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive campus through the recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and students. As a community, we hold important the democracy of ideas, tempered by a commitment to free speech and the standards of inquiry and debate. To this end, we are dedicated to developing and sustaining a learning environment where it is safe to explore our differences and celebrate the richness inherent in our pluralistic society (College Handbook, Chapter 130).

Inclusive Learning Environment: SUNY Cortland is committed to a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment. The course instructor honors this commitment and respects and values differences. All students enrolled in this course are expected to be considerate of others, promote a collaborative and supportive educational environment, and demonstrate respect for individuals with regard to ability or disability, age, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-

economic status or other aspects of identity. In an environment that fosters inclusion, students have the opportunity to bring their various identities into conversation as they find helpful but are not expected to represent or speak for an entire group of people who share aspects of an identity. If you have any questions or concerns about this statement, contact the Institutional Equity and Inclusion Office at 607-753-2263 (IEIO <http://www2.cortland.edu/about/diversity/>)

Title IX Statement: Title IX, when combined with New York Human Rights Law and the New York Education Law 129-B, prohibits discrimination, harassment and violence based on sex, gender, gender identity/expression, and/or sexual orientation in the education setting. The federal Clery Act and NY Education Law 129-B provide certain rights and responsibilities after an incident of sexual or interpersonal violence. When a violation occurs, victims and survivors are eligible for campus and community resources. Where the College has jurisdiction, it may investigate and take action in accordance with College policy. If you or someone you know wishes to report discrimination based in sex, gender, gender identity/expression, and/or sexual orientation, or wishes to report sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking or relationship violence, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at 607-753-4550, or visit [cortland.edu/titleix](http://www2.cortland.edu/titleix) to learn about all reporting options and resources. (Title IX <http://www2.cortland.edu/titleix>)

The Learning Center: provides a variety of services to support student learning and success in academics. Services include professional tutoring, peer tutoring, peer-led team learning, supplemental instruction, and online tutoring through NightOWL. These services are available to all SUNY Cortland students. In addition to course support, tutors are available to work with students on writing, math, reading, chemistry, physics, study skills, test-taking, and time management.

The Learning Center's services are free and available to undergraduate and graduate students of all ability and achievement levels. The Learning Center is located in Van Hoesen Hall, Room B-205. For more information, call 607-753-4309, email tlc@cortland.edu and the web address <https://www2.cortland.edu/offices/asap/the-learning-center/>.

The Counseling Center: recognizes the stress and challenges students may encounter in adjusting to college life. It provides a variety of developmentally focused support services to students in a safe, confidential environment, and serves as a resource to the SUNY Cortland community. For additional information on support and services, contact the Counseling Center at Van Hoesen Hall, Room B-44, (telephone: (607) 753-4728, or: <http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/student-development-center/counseling-center/>)