

# ANT490Y1 – Field Course in Social and Cultural Anthropology

Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto

Instructor: Joshua Barker, Associate Professor

## **Purpose of the Course**

This course provides the opportunity for an in-depth, on-site exploration of urban development and socio-cultural change in Bandung, Indonesia. Students will learn about the urban history, politics, and culture of Bandung; they will learn about governmental and non-governmental efforts to solve urban development problems; and they will conduct primary research in the field of urban ethnography. Students who participate in the course will gain skills essential to ethnographic fieldwork: they will learn how to conduct collaborative field research; they will receive training in linguistic and cultural sensitivity; they will learn methods for data collection (interviewing, participant observation, examination of textual materials), data recording (fieldnotes, photography, sound recording), and data analysis/interpretation (thematic coding, close reading). Upon completion of the course students will have gained first-hand experience in how to initiate, plan and conduct a field-based, qualitative research project in a foreign setting. They will also have learned how to present the results of their research in written and oral form. *Prerequisites: ANT204H1 and two additional social-cultural anthropology courses; or permission of the instructor.*

## **Field Site: Bandung, Indonesia**

Bandung is a city of over 7 million people located on the island of Java, not far from the nation's capital of Jakarta. Indonesia is the fourth largest country in the world and is home to hundreds of ethnic and linguistic groups. Over half of Indonesia's population lives on the island of Java, which is currently experiencing enormous developmental pressures, particularly in terms of urban migration, environmental management, urban housing inadequacies, uneven employment opportunities and transportation problems. At the same time, Indonesia is now eleven years into a period of democratic reforms that has added tremendous dynamism and vitality to local politics and culture. Bandung is at the nexus of all these major social transformations. The opportunity for student growth, intellectual stimulation and cultural understanding represented by participation in this course is extraordinary. The diversity and uniqueness of the Indonesian urban landscape will provide an excellent setting from which we can challenge our assumptions, deepen our understanding, and raise questions about the meaning and practice of research on urban issues.

## **Course Schedule and Format**

All students are required to participate in the four elements of the course: Preparation, Language Training, Fieldwork, and Post-Fieldwork Follow-up.

Preparation: From May 3-6 we will meet for four preparation seminars, 3 hours each, including a session with Ms. Holly Luffman, the Health and Safety Advisor of the International Student Exchange Office at the University of Toronto. These sessions will provide students with (1) a general introduction to the culture, history and politics of

urban development in Indonesia; (2) cultural sensitivity training; (3) general health and safety training; (4) health and safety training particular to Yogyakarta and Bandung.

Language Training: Students will attend a week of language study in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (May 10<sup>th</sup> -May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010). Yogyakarta is located in central Java and is home to some of Indonesia's best universities. Students will travel by train from Yogya to Bandung.

Fieldwork: The field trip itself will take place from May 17<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Bandung. From May 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> students will meet with Bandung city officials, academics and representatives from local NGOs, community organizations, and cultural organizations. These meetings will provide students with the background knowledge and the personal contacts necessary for their research. From May 22<sup>nd</sup>-June 2<sup>nd</sup> students will conduct field research and attend daily meetings with the instructor to learn methods and discuss progress. Preliminary results of the field research will be presented to local collaborators on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Post-Fieldwork Follow-Up: Students will be expected to produce a final report on their research and a diary of fieldnotes reflecting on their research experiences. These assignments will be due June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Course Evaluation**

Language Training	20%
Participation	20%
Written Research Report	20%
Oral Presentation	20%
Research Fieldnote Diary	20%

### **Collaborative Course**

This course is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Geography and Planning, and the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto. Our Indonesian collaborators include the Department of Anthropology at Universitas Gajah Mada, the Regional and City Planning Program at the Institut Teknologi Bandung, and the Bandung-based NGO, Common Room. The course is being offered in conjunction with PLA1150/GGR480 and ANT399Y. Students participating in the course will benefit from interdisciplinary conversations and interactions with graduate students during the language training and fieldwork phases of the course. Students who wish to combine the course with ANT399Y for a full summer of study in Indonesia should see the description for that course.

### **Health and Safety**

The field course will follow the Faculty of Arts & Science *Guidelines for Safety in Field Courses*. These guidelines establish chains of responsible leadership, requirements for reasonable care, and other safety protocols. Health and safety orientation sessions will be offered prior to departure to Indonesia.

### **Registration Process and Fee**

Students can register for the course as soon as it is available on ROSI. In the meantime, the Department of Anthropology will require a \$500 deposit plus a brief statement of interest from each student who plans to enrol in the course by January 15, 2009. The fee to cover costs of accommodation, local transportation, and 2 meals per day will be approximately \$2200. In addition, students can expect to pay \$1500-\$2000 for airfare to and from Indonesia.

### **Financial Support**

Students may seek financial support to help cover the costs of the field course. We are aware of two funding sources within the University that students may wish to consider applying for:

- (1) Students who plan to take both ANT490Y and ANT399Y may apply for funds to cover the travel and subsistence costs of the course (up to CDN\$4000). Up to four students may benefit from this support. The deadline for applications is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Please see the ANT399Y description for application details (attached).
- (2) Students may be eligible to apply for a Dr. David Chu Scholarship and Travel Bursary. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2010. Details on eligibility and information about the application process are available at:  
<http://www.utoronto.ca/davidchu/scholarships.html>

Students will be informed if additional funding sources are identified or become available.