

**INDEPENDENT EXPERIENTIAL STUDY PROJECTS (398H/399Y)
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2012**

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Course title and weight (398H or 399Y): ANT399Y

Description of project and experiential component: Producing Wealth and Poverty in Indonesia's New Rural Economies

Professor Tania Li, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, and Dr Pujo Semedi, Department of Anthropology, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia This research program examines the social relations through which rural people gain access to, or are excluded from, the benefits of high growth agriculture in Indonesia. The research focus this year is on the Dieng Plateau in Central Java, where farmers have converted their mixed land use to intensive, mono-cropped potato cultivation. The aim of the research is to map the social positions, relations and practices that shape who wins, and who loses, from this radical transformation of the rural economy.

Student Experience:

Undergraduate participants will receive intensive training in the Indonesian language as well as research skills, and undertake six weeks of field research together with other students working in small teams. The research of each team will involve interviewing workers, traders, community leaders, local officials, and activists concerned in some way with the vegetable production economy. It will also involve observation in naturalistic settings, such as spending a few days working alongside wage workers, or following traders on their rounds picking up produce.

Calendar, location and setting:

May 01 - June 15 Language learning and research preparation at Gadjah Mada University, Jogjakarta

June 15- July 31 Field research, Dieng Plateau, Central Java

August 1-31 Return to Canada to complete research paper and field notes for submission.

Location:

The students in 399Y will spend six weeks in May and June based at Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta for their language training, and for planning meetings with members of the research team. For the intensive fieldwork period in June-July, the undergraduate students will be based in a few neighbouring hamlets, where they will work in small sub-teams. Breakout into sub-teams is intended to help cover the range of topics and localities, and to avoid overwhelming the research subjects. The total number of undergraduate researchers involved in the project will be about 30 persons (20 Indonesian, 10 Canadian). Each team will comprise 3-6 members.

Supervision/ Safety:

Dr Tania Li and Dr Semedi will be the co-instructors for the course. Dr Semedi, who holds an appointment as visiting professor at the University of Toronto, will be present in Central Java for the entire 6 week period of the field research. Dr Li will be present for the first 4 weeks while the students are settling in and starting their work. During their 6 weeks of language training at Gadjah Mada University students will be under the general supervision of Dr Semedi. A doctoral student Hery Santoso, co-

supervised by Li and Semedi, will assist in student supervision and will be the field co-ordinator. Santoso will by then have spent one year living in the village that is at the center of our research site, conducting his own field research (Sept 2011-August 2012). He will use his contacts and familiarity with the area to make suitable home-stay arrangements for the students. The instructors will institute a chain of responsible leadership to ensure the safety of students in the field. Students will attend training at the Safety Abroad office, and sign the Consent Form and Release from Liability for Off-Campus International Field Courses.

The conditions in the field research site that will be the focus of our research this year, the Dieng Plateau of Central Java, are less rugged than West Kalimantan (ANT 399 site for 2010 and 2011). The road and cell phone network are complete, making communication much easier. This means that the students can easily contact the field coordinators and instructors should a health or safety concern arise. Good hospitals are available in Jogjakarta, which is about 4 hours' drive from Dieng, and there are world-class facilities in Jakarta which can be reached within a day. The regional police office keeps a list of all the student researchers on our project, and is ready to assist in case of emergency.

Living Conditions:

Living conditions in rural Central Java will be basic. Normally, a few students will share a room in a villager's house; they will have access to well water for bathing; they need to use mosquito nets for sleeping; and they will eat local food with their host family. Local transport will be by bus or motorbike. These are standard conditions for ethnographic fieldwork in rural Indonesia, and a necessary part of learning about local livelihoods and ways of life. The most challenging aspect of daily living is constant immersion in the Indonesian language. We will mitigate the stress this can cause by pairing the Canadian students so that they can spend one or two hours together daily.

Evaluation procedures and marking scheme:

Students will attend all training and preparatory activities. They will keep detailed field notes typed daily and shared with the team in a format to be agreed. They will prepare an individual research report that uses field data to examine a topic of particular interest to them. The reports will be evaluated and receive feedback from Professors Li and Semedi. They will then be revised for publication as working papers on the research website.

Marking Scheme:

Attendance, participation and contributions to the team 40%
Field notes 30%
Research report 30%

Prerequisites, background preparation or specific abilities:

This Independent Experiential Study opportunity is intended for highly motivated students who are capable of working independently, taking initiatives, and conducting themselves in a mature fashion under working and living conditions that will be unfamiliar to most undergraduates in Canadian universities. Good organizational and social skills are essential. Academic preparation should include several courses in the social sciences. Places are limited, and selection will be based on transcript, CV and interview. Students must meet the normal criteria for admission to a 399Y course (completed a minimum of 8.5 and a maximum of 13.5 full course equivalents by April 2012). Students will undertake a set of required readings and attend several academic/ research orientation sessions in Toronto and in Jogjakarta to prepare them before their arrival in Central Java.

Number of Participants: 6