



Study Abroad in Malaysia!

Join OHIO for the **Malaysia: Society and Culture Program** July 14-August 10, 2012

Under the leadership of Dr. Habibah Ashari, OHIO's current Tun Abdul Razak Chair, students can experience the rich mosaic of life in Malaysia through its diversity of peoples, religions, cultures and practices. Through these encounters and experiences, they will learn to be aware of and appreciate diversity and plurality that exist in a modern, stable, and peaceful Southeast Asian nation.

The four-week program will be based at the **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)**, located in Shah Alam, approximately 40 kilometers from Kuala Lumpur. Students will be introduced to Malaysia through both a series of lectures and visits to historical sites such as Malacca and modern sites such as Putrajaya. Malaysian literature will be introduced through several short stories, and Malay folk songs and traditional dances will be included to showcase the cultural richness of Malaysia whilst enhancing the students' own awareness of its multicultural diversity. The students will be able to interact with a cross-section of the Malaysian community through their academic encounters and social pursuits.

Students will be assigned to a local informant/peer from the ESL matriculation students in the Faculty of Education, UiTM Shah Alam. The matriculation students are taking Intensive English and will benefit greatly from having face to face contact with native speakers of English.

Students will receive 5 credits for completing the course. The students will be required to write a paper on a topic of interest about Malaysia; a review of one short story; and keep a continuous reflective journal about their experiences, thoughts, and impressions during the program. They will also be required to write a 2 - 3 page thought paper recording and reflecting on their experiences, challenges and opportunities in being with the ESL students. As a group they will produce a news magazine about their experiences, encounters or impressions of the course as well as on Malaysia. This group project could also take the form of a blog on the website.

The program is open to all regularly enrolled OHIO undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in Malaysian society, culture, and literature. All applicants must have earned a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Eligibility is also incumbent upon a successful completion of pre-departure orientation. Interviews may be conducted to assess interest and willingness to live in a different culture.

For more information, contact Dr. Ashari at Ashari@ohio.edu.