

## HST 298: MALAYSIA'S MODERNITY

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*Malaysia's Modernity* affords students the opportunity to examine and experience a different modernity through a look at one nation in Southeast Asia. Malaysia's unique brand of modernity is the result of a national push towards developed nation status, which coincides with a revival of spirituality among its citizens. Technologically advanced, yet steeped in diverse traditional beliefs, Malaysia is the ideal place to study a modern, non-western culture through an exploration of the diverse and often contrasting beliefs and values, a task made easier by the fact that English is widely spoken and western ways are well-accepted. This three-credit course includes a two-week trip to Malaysia at an extra course fee; however, students who do not wish to travel may also enroll in the course.

Pre-travel course content consists of a full semester of study, including scholarly writings by Asian authors, in addition to guest lectures on the arts, cultures, spiritual beliefs, ethnic diversity and sociopolitical climate of Malaysia. Students who so choose will conclude the semester with a two-week trip abroad led by the course instructor, who is well acquainted with Malaysia. Using the futuristic capital city of Kuala Lumpur as a hub, students will travel to various sites throughout this diverse country that show the juxtaposition of tradition and innovation characteristic of the region. They will visit holy caves, temples, and mosques; take a canopy walk in the tropical rainforest jungle; tour the iconic Petronas Towers and other signature modern structures; hear lectures on Malaysian mystical beliefs and practices; attend traditional cultural performances; dine on local food; and interact daily with Malaysians themselves. At some point during the trip, students will meet Malaysian students and/or Wilkes alumni working abroad to discuss possible international careers. A follow-up session will be held in which students can share insights and reflections of their experiences.

### TRAVEL COSTS:

The course fee for the travel portion of this faculty-led course is \$2,875 per person, which includes:

- Round-trip Airfare from USA to Malaysia
- All tour guide fees and ground transportation in Malaysia
- All accommodations (based on double-occupancy)
- Breakfast every day, plus five group meals during the trip
- All entrance fees to cultural shows, nature reserves, museums, parks, etc.

The course fee is added to tuition and is eligible for educational loans; a cash payment plan is also available:

- \$500 deposit by 15<sup>th</sup> of Nov (non-refundable) to secure the spot
- \$500 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Dec, 15<sup>th</sup> of Jan, 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb, 15<sup>th</sup> of Mar
- Final payment of \$375 on 15<sup>th</sup> of April

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Gina Zanolini Morrison

Associate Professor, Global Cultures

Email: [gina.morrison@wilkes.edu](mailto:gina.morrison@wilkes.edu)

Office: 109 Breiseth Hall, S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre

Phone: 570-408-4681