



Northern Illinois University

Study Abroad Office

Cultural Anthropology Field School in Cambodia

June 15 - July 13, 2013

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the NIU Department of Anthropology, the NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh.

PROGRAM DATES: The program will officially begin on Saturday, June 15, 2013 in Phnom Penh, and will end on Saturday, July 13, 2013 in Siem Reap. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements in order to arrive in Phnom Penh on Saturday, June 15.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Judy Ledgerwood, Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and Professor of Anthropology in the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is a cultural anthropologist whose research interests include gender, refugee and diaspora communities, and the transnational movements of people and ideas. Her current research is focused on Cambodian Buddhism and ideas of cultural identity. Professor Ledgerwood's dissertation was on changing Khmer conceptions of gender in Khmer refugee communities in the United States. She has taught as a visiting professor at Cornell University and the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. She previously directed study abroad programs in Cambodia in 2003, 2007 and 2010.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES: Through participation in this program, participants will gain the following:

- 1) Classroom lectures on Cambodian culture and cultural reconstruction in the post-Khmer Rouge era.
- 2) Classroom lectures and fieldwork on Cambodian Buddhism
- 3) An introduction and practical application of ethnographic field methods.
- 4) Field experience in ethnographic interviewing techniques in rural villages.
- 5) A multi-cultural experience with other international students and exposure to a new culture.

PROGRAM SITE: The Kingdom of Cambodia is an independent country with a population of more than 10 million people that has a surface area of 181,035 sq. km. Cambodia was a French colony until 1953, a monarchy from 1953-1970, and a republic from 1970-75 when the country was engulfed in war. Then from 1975-79 the Democratic Kampuchea regime, also known as the Khmer Rouge or red Khmer regime, was one of



the most violent regimes of the 20th century. More than 1.7 million people, nearly one quarter of the total population of the country died. In 1979 the Khmer Rouge were overthrown and the country became known as the People's Republic of Kampuchea. In 1991 a peace agreement was signed, and in 1993 a UN Peacekeeping mission brought about a new coalition government that included people from all sides of the previous decades of war. The fighting finally ended completely in 1998, and Cambodia has now had more than a decade of peace.

Cambodia has a distinct geographical personality: it is a wide basin surrounded by highlands. Most people grow wet season rice and subsist on a diet of rice and fish. Cambodia is rich in resources, forests, rubber, gems, and fish. The two big driving forces of the economy today are tourism and the garment industry.

The Kingdom of Cambodia is now safe to travel and tourism is booming. Indeed, the country and Phnom Penh in particular is undergoing something of a renaissance. Often overshadowed by the traumatic events of its recent past, Cambodia as home of the Khmer culture remains one of the most important and interesting countries in South East Asia.

HIGHLIGHTS: The program includes one week of classroom lectures at the Royal University of Fine Arts, two weeks in the field conducting ethnographic research on the rebirth of Cambodian Buddhism, and three days visiting the famous archaeological ruins at Angkor Wat.

PROGRAM AUDIENCE: Students from all majors and colleges are welcome especially those with a cultural anthropology background. Non-NIU students are also welcome to participate in this program. This program should have particular appeal to students in anthropology, religion, political science, communications, sociology, education, women's studies, and Asian studies. Maximum enrollment is 12 students. Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

INSTRUCTION METHOD: This field school is offered in conjunction with the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA) Department of Archaeology in Phnom Penh. It repeats successful field schools held in summer 2003, 2007 and 2010. The training is in ethnographic field methods; the first week will be spent in a classroom at RUFA learning about Cambodian culture and religion, and introducing the methods that we will be using. These include: structured and semi-structured interviews (including surveys), structured observation, life history interviews, and participant observation. The topic of the research is the rebirth of Cambodian religion, especially Buddhism. During the Khmer Rouge period in the late 1970s, the radical Marxist regime tried to completely eradicate religion. Since the Paris Peace Agreement of 1991 and the UN sponsored elections in 1993, there has been a spectacular resurgence of Buddhism, as well as Islam and Christianity.

Two weeks will be spent in the field. Students will work in three person teams, two Cambodians and one American on each team. The Cambodian students will serve as translators for the American students. Each team will work in one community and be based at the community temple. The group will ride out in vans each day to villages and return at night to the city. We will be based in Phnom Penh, and Sihanoukville. The teams will interview monks, novices, nuns and community members about the history of rebuilding their community temple – when the temple was rebuilt, how many monks there are, how many men have ordained, what festivals does the temple sponsor, what festivals do people attend, what ceremonies do they sponsor, and about how Buddhism has changed since before the revolution. This year for the first time, the field sites may include some Islamic mosques and Christian churches. Students will submit their daily field notebooks, a collection of photos, a map, and at the end of the course will submit a final paper on their field site community.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive **3 or 6** semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in one of the following NIU courses. The courses taken while participating in this program *cannot* be audited. Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU admission and course requirements.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:	
ANTH 490A Anthropological Research Training: Cultural	3 semester hours
<p>Description: Training and experience in field research. Students participate, under supervision, in basic research projects. Any lettered section may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Total credit may not exceed 6 semester hours.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Consent of department.</p>	
AND	
ANTH 493A Anthropology Field Study: Cultural	3 semester hours
<p>Description: Directed field study or field school. Each topic may be repeated to a maximum of 12 semester hours.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Consent of department.</p>	

GRADUATE CREDIT:	
ANTH 593A Anthropology Field School: Cultural	3 semester hours
<p>Description: Directed field study or field school. Each topic may be repeated to a maximum of 12 semester hours.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Consent of department.</p>	
AND	
ANTH 590A Anthropological Research Training: Cultural	3 semester hours
<p>Description: Training and experience in field research. Students will participate, under supervision, in basic projects. Any lettered section may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Total credit may not exceed 6 semester hours.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Consent of department.</p>	
OR	
ANTH 690A Independent Study: Cultural	3 semester hours
<p>Description: Training and experience in field research. Students will participate, under supervision, in basic projects. Any lettered section may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Total credit may not exceed 6 semester hours.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Consent of department.</p>	

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Brief essay questions on the field school application will ask you to outline your background in cultural anthropology, your interest in this program, as well as how the program will assist you academically and in the future.
- Approval from Professor Ledgerwood.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to *undergraduates and/or graduate level students* who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in Cultural Anthropology. Currently enrolled students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course GPA requirements. Graduate level students must also meet NIU Graduate School admission, course and GPA requirements.

Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate admission and course requirements.**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have

previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU SAO. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled, nor are previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program. (Student issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.)

APPLICATION: Click [Cultural Anthropology Field School in Cambodia](#) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for "Cambodia" or the *Cultural Anthropology Field School in Cambodia* program) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions can be found on the website.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2013.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: From June 15 – through July 13 participants will reside in modest hotels in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville with air-conditioning. Meals are provided, including bag lunches taken along to the field site. Bottled water is provided. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the program cost.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the U.S. and Phnom Penh and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Phnom Penh in time for the official beginning of the program, they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than June 14, 2013.



For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet.

Important - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should **not** be booked until:

- a. After the April 1, 2013 application deadline
AND
- b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled, **CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM**)

LAND TRANSPORTATION: The group will travel by rented van to and from the field sites each day. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost. Travel to Sihanoukville and Siem Reap to visit Angkor Wat will be by road; these costs are also included.

PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT--All participants are required to possess a valid passport by March 1, 2013. Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. After March 1, 2013 applicants may need to request expedited services or apply in person at the Chicago Passport Agency. If applicants are not within the Chicago area, they must apply at the nearest passport agency.) Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.



VISA: Visas for Cambodia can be obtained on arrival in Phnom Penh for \$20; this cost should be paid by the student on arrival and will be reimbursed by the program.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: Students should contact their primary care physician and/or the NIU University Health Service as soon as possible, and at least eight weeks before the program begins to allow time for immunizations to take effect. The NIU University Health Service can advise students on what immunizations are required and can administer most immunizations. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the Travel Clinic several months before you travel. Appointments are required. Some vaccines need to be given over a period of months, so participants in this program must **START EARLY!**

NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan will be enrolled by the Study Abroad Office. The NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD: The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

NIU PROGRAM COST: The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

- 1) Hotel rooms (dual occupancy) June 15 - July 13.
- 2) All meals.
- 3) Program-related land transportation in Cambodia.
- 4) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule.
- 5) Fee for acquiring a visa to enter Cambodia.
- 6) NIU tuition for 6 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit.
- 7) NIU major medical insurance for the duration of the program.

PROGRAM COST: \$4,200

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Airfare
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$130, including two passport pictures).
- Passport size photos.
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.

- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- \$40 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization.

Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after April 1, 2013 will not be refunded the \$200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after April 1, 2013 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Cambodia, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Cambodia, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!