

COURSE SYLLABUS
International Experience
Indonesia

Professor Mushfiq Mobarak
ahmed.mobarak@yale.edu

TAs:

Katy Mixter (katy.mixer@yale.edu)

Shayna Keller (shayna.keller@yale.edu)

Course Overview

This course and trip to Indonesia is taught by a development economist, and will have a focus on economic development. We will visit MNC's, local for-profit firms, non-profits, NGO's and government institutions in the city of Jakarta in Java, and in another more rural island. The overall purpose of the trip is for the students to understand how the business environment in Indonesia is different, and the unique challenges to conducting business there. More broadly, the students will get a grasp on the country's prospects for development and the challenges it faces, spanning political economy and social issues, and poverty reduction challenges.

This trip will have three primary focus areas:

- Focus Area One: One of the key issues facing Indonesia (and relevant to Indonesia) is the tension between economic and environmental objectives. Indonesia is a poor country with a large portion still agrarian, but these are land-intensive activities and therefore Indonesia is at the forefront of challenges around climate change
- Focus Area Two: Unique challenges to doing business in a setting where markets supporting institutions are deficient or absent (the rules of business are different). The ways in which things are different, ex: importance of political connections for business and corruption
- Focus Area Three: Development challenges and opportunities for the country.

Trip Overview

The first part of our time will be spent in Jakarta, which is Indonesia's business hub, while the rest of our time will be used to explore development and land management in more remote areas. As such, our itinerary will be very different from standard business school trips, not only in terms of location, but also in terms of the composition of the meetings we will set up. We will visit with representatives from different sectors (industry, agricultural plantation, natural resources) and different types of organizations (for profit, government, and the non-profit development sector) to explore the complementary roles played by different types of enterprises in the process of economic advancement, and to learn how they cope with the challenges of conducting business in environments with weak or developing civil, social and market institutions. Each business meeting lasts 1.5-2 hours, and sometimes longer if the meeting is combined with a "field visit" or a visit to directly observe business operations, or a factory or any other such facility.

In terms of recreation, we hope to provide participants with a glimpse of Indonesia's cultural diversity. We will taste Indonesian food, experience its art, and learn about its cultural history. During your free nights in Jakarta, we encourage you to explore. Students are encouraged to use the post-trip break to explore other parts of Indonesia and the South Pacific.

Individuals considering this trip should be aware that travelling in a developing country often entails certain frustrations, such as heavy traffic, delays, poor infrastructure, upset stomach, etc, especially as we will venture into rural areas and poor urban neighborhoods. Moreover to get a full sense of Indonesia, we will travel to several different locations which will include various forms of transportation. This means all of our days will be packed and rather fast-paced. Participants should be prepared to travel with flexibility, a positive attitude, and a sense of humor.

Grading

- **(20%) Engagement during class***
 - Attendance
 - Timeliness
 - Participation in discussion
- **(20%) Group presentation:** We will be looking for comprehensive research and thoughtful analysis of each topic.
- **(50%) Engagement/professional behavior during trip.** Again, we will be looking for:
 - Attendance
 - Timeliness
 - Appropriate dress and respectful attitudes to speakers and hosts
 - Participation in discussions
- **(10%) 1 page Company Profiles.** Profiles should provide an overview of the company as well as interesting points for the class to reflect on that refer to the course's primary focuses, if possible.

***Note on Attendance and Participation:** Attendance, preparation, and participation are essential. Obviously, you cannot participate if you are not present, so absences without legitimate excuses will lead to a reduced participation grade. More than two absences may preclude you from coming with the group to Indonesia.

Course Webpage and Posted Materials

Electronic copies of course materials, including reading assignments, lecture slides and homework assignments will be placed on the Canvas site.

Schedule

Session 1: Introduction

1. Course expectations
2. Mushfiq lecture: Introduction to three focus areas
3. Student bios

Session 2: Indonesian History

1. Student Presentation: Indonesian History
2. Student Presentation: Indonesian Present Culture and Politics
3. Student Presentation: Macroeconomy

Session 3: Guest Speakers: Indonesia and Business in Indonesia Intro

1. Student Presentation: Business customs, considerations, etc.
2. Panel of Indonesian students at Yale

Session 4: Introduction to Sustainable Forestry

1. Student Presentation: Palm Oil Production in Indonesia
2. Student Presentation: Efforts to make Palm Oil Production more sustainable (RSPO, etc)
3. Student Presentation: The recent fires- Their causes and impacts

Session 5: Faculty Lecture

Mushfiq will present research around the topic of sustainable forestry and seasonal poverty in Indonesia.

Session 6: Cycles of Poverty Student presentations

1. Student Presentation: Seasonal Industries
2. Student Presentation: Poverty in Indonesia

Session 7: Jeopardy

Jeopardy game and final prep and logistics for trip