

# Folk 321/UrbSt 327

## Exploring Memory and Tradition in Philadelphia Communities

Spring 2007

Professors Mary Hufford and Yoonhee Kang Friday 2-5  
Center for Folklore and Ethnography 3619 Locust Walk, Room 404



*From grocery stores and restaurants located in South Philadelphia, Indonesian immigrants sell a variety of Indonesian foods and goods to local patrons. Photo by Yoonhee Kang, October 18, 2006.*

### Course Description

In this place-based community service learning course, we explore the use of traditional verbal arts and material practices among immigrant communities seeking to make Philadelphia home. We begin with theories of culture, community, identity, and the production of locality from the social sciences, and move from there into historic, literary, and ethnographic portrayals of relevance to the community we will be working with. Students are introduced to the principles of ethnographic fieldwork, including techniques of participant observation, interviewing, community-based research design, interpretation, and presentation, and the ethical dimensions of fieldwork. Applying these methods, students develop a project that serves the needs of a collaborating Philadelphia community. Students gain critical thinking and observational skills from the readings, discussion, writing assignments, and field trips.

The fieldwork component for the Spring of 2007 focuses on the verbal arts and material cultural traditions of an Indonesian community in south Philadelphia. Students will document and study Indonesian traditions as they are shaped by the experience of resettlement. The course will culminate in a public event on campus. This one and a half credit course, which fulfills the General Distribution requirement in Society, will be of special value to students interested in anthropology, sociology, folklore, urban studies, southeast Asian studies, literary studies, and vernacular arts and culture.

An ABCS course of the Center for Folklore and Ethnography and the Center for Community Partnerships. For more information about the Center's service learning course and community-based research program visit: <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/folklore/center/index.html>