Program Description for Faculty-Led Programs

Name of Program: **Field School in Applied Anthropology**

Name of Program Director: **Cassandra White**

Location of Program: **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Dates of Program: **June 6-June 20, 2015**

This program takes place primarily in a densely-populated urban environment of Rio de Janeiro, within which there are also beaches, rainforest, steep hills, and mountains. Students will live in the South Zone of Rio de Janeiro, in the beachfront neighborhood of Ipanema, for most of the program, with a possible three day stay in a hostel on the border of the neighborhood of Vidigal, also in the South Zone. Although urban violence is a challenge faced by residents of and visitors to Rio, most of the health-related problems (including asthma and panic attacks, dehydration, and near drowning) that students have experienced in the past have had been related to challenges posed by the climate and natural environment.

We will be in Rio in June during the Southern Hemisphere’s winter, during which temperatures are generally in the 70s and 80s (Fahrenheit), but heat and humidity should be a factor in planning, in terms of awareness of physical limitations. We do a great deal of walking in urban areas, including steep hillsides of favela (shantytown) communities and on hiking trails. We may do a few short hikes in the Atlantic rainforest that is within the city. Some of these hikes have proven strenuous to students in the past, particularly for students with certain conditions (asthma and sickle cell anemia, for example) or who are unaccustomed to this type of exercise. I ask that students bring water and small snacks with them on hikes; if they require inhalers at any time, they should always have these available to them.

Students should be cautious of strong rip tides along most Rio beaches. Even strong swimmers need to be cautious. In addition, there are periodic leaks of untreated sewage into the waters of Rio’s beaches.

Students who regularly take prescription medication should continue with their medication while in Brazil. Students who have had anxiety attacks in the past, whether or not they have been diagnosed or are on medicate for an anxiety disorder, should let the program director know.

We have several trips to different parts of the vast Rio metropolitan area in vans or buses. Students with asthma, anxiety disorders, or who are prone to motion sickness should be aware of the challenges of these trips. Air pollution and exhaust from other vehicles can be significant in Rio de Janeiro.

While no vaccinations are required for U.S. travelers going to Rio de Janeiro state, we recommend that students are up-to-date on the Hepatitis A and Tetanus vaccines. Malaria prophylaxis, however, is **not recommended** by CDC for travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.