1. Religious Studies
2. Sociology

|  |
| --- |
| **Why do these areas appeal to you? (up to approximately 125 words).\***  In my extended family, I am considered one of the lucky ones. As a Muslim, being a female who is allowed to study abroad without a “Mukhrim” is considered a privilege. This was when I first realized how big of an impact religion can have in shaping a society. Growing up in a country with the largest Muslim population in the world, spending my freshman year of high school in England at a Christian School flipped the cards for me. The culture shock and becoming a minority for the first time opened my eyes. I was intrigued by the similarities between these religions and the ethical values they hold, how Christianity shaped this society in comparison to what I experienced back home. At home, religion becomes a constant cause of political conflict. Hence, I am curious to apply the concept of sociology of religion to addressing a plethora of current global issues including inequality and violence within different societies. |

|  |
| --- |
| **What is it about Yale that has led you to apply? (125 words or fewer)\***  I believe Yale is the best place for me to study the Sociology of Religion through the various course offerings and academic opportunities.  I am intrigued to compare the way religion influences different cultures and societies, especially in an era of globalization through the RLST 490 Religion and Society course.  Under professors such as David Simons, I am intrigued to learn more about his work in the Yale Genocide Studies program to learn the impact of minorities in different religions, even though a historical context. Comparing and contrasting the impact of religion to society between now and the past. Hoping to further research this when it comes to the senior essay which will give me an opportunity to do my independent research on Sociology of Religion. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Yale’s extensive course offerings and vibrant conversations beyond the classroom encourage students to follow their developing intellectual interests wherever they lead. Tell us about your engagement with a topic or idea that excites you. Why are you drawn to it? (250 words or fewer)**  Hi I’m Raisa and I’m a shoppaholic. I am constantly looking for the newest fashion trends. My time browsing on Asos and Zalora probably account for 60% of my average screen time.  Growing up, my parents used to take me to “Rumah Mode” whenever we went to Bandung. It was around a 3 hour drive from Jakarta but there was almost like an outlet mall. “Sisa Export” they called it. The clothes made in factories to be sold to large multinational brands but didn’t pass the quality test. These clothes were so affordable from as cheap as US$5 for a nice sweater. I was surprised. I asked my parents why they were so cheap, they said because the cost of production is cheap. Yet I always pondered as to why they were sold for so expensive. “That’s unfair”, I would always say to my parents, before realizing how this was considered a norm.  As I noticed the slow changing trends in streetwear and trends I began to see the trends behind “thrift culture”. I began to research sites such as “Depop” and read various articles on the social and environmental impacts fast fashion has. I slowly began understanding the extent of the limitations.  I was at a crossroads.  Guilty of the negative implications of something which brings me so much happiness. Does this make me a bad person? Consumed by my guilt, I was adamant to find ways to revolutionize the fashion industry.  Hence my passion to introduce sustainable fashion to the Indonesian fashion community. A movement which focuses on the ecological and social impacts of fashion. Being a founder of Fashion marketplace, ‘Ourdrobe’, I want to continue this movement by spreading awareness of the unseen implications of fast fashion, especially the environmental impacts.  I hope to share tactics of “thrift culture” to advocate the slow fashion movement. Whilst showcasing the amalgamation of art, business and culture in fashion. Evolving the industry to meet the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please respond to one of the following prompts in 250 words or fewer. Please indicate the letter of the prompt.**  **A. Reflect on your membership in a community. Why is your involvement important to you? How has it shaped you? You may define community however you like.**  After losing 50 pounds, I always focused on my diet and neglected my body’s physical health. As many people do, I was one who fell into the trap of “toxic dieting”. For months I deprived myself of proper nutrition, having as few as 750 calories a day. I feel blessed that I realized in time that what I was doing wasn’t healthy. That I was risking myself for a bigger health conditions just to look “healthy”  I became inspired by fitness youtubers such Lily Sabri and Krissy Cela. “Strong is the new skinny” became a saying I would live by. Watching them I was inspired, I wanted to build muscle and deadlift 100kgs.  To reach my goal, what I realized is I needed a strong and supportive community. One I found through the F45 community. “F45” is a functional training gym which focuses on a 45 minute circuit training. I never thought I would find such a close-knit community that has been so paramount in shaping my patience, resilience, and work ethic.  When I come every morning at 6am, I am an individual who aims to improve their fitness and increase productivity. My first session there I was nervous and insecure. My fitness level was no where near where I wanted it to be, watching people deadlift 100kgs and do pull ups, thats all I wanted to do. I came to the realization that in order to reach my goals I have to put in the effort first, that the most important thing was progress.  Having such supportive coaches that are able to encourage me and bring a positive energy to start my day. I became excited as I beat my personal record each time, from deadlift 5kg to 10kg to 15kg. Now able to deadlift 60kg. From struggling to hang on the pull up bar to being able to do 10 banded pull ups.  Here, I am able to go above and beyond my comfort zone both physically and mentally.  The fitness journey at F45 taught me resilience and hardwork, doing an exercise for the first time will be difficult but it is overcoming the pain that will make everything easier in the long term. The resilience each member of this community has inspires me. Despite each individual having a different journey, we all commonly accept that we will only progress as much as the effort they put in.  Ultimately, this community has shaped me into the person I am today, not just in terms of my body. Simultaneously, it has shaped my work ethic and discipline teaching me that what I am is reflective of my actions. That it is the mental limitations of our mindsets that stop us from reaching our desires. |

My 5 am alarm clock constantly haunts me as I am woken up for school every morning as I count down the days until each school break. A blessing I wasn’t always aware of.

Until, my first community service experience when I was 12, teaching some local children how to write. As a 12-year-old, I was shocked by the high illiteracy rate in Indonesia. Folded up in a small note, they wrote “Makasih Kakak”: “thank you, sister” . Lit up in my heart and kickstarted what would be the next steps of my endeavors to make education more accessible.

Hence, my engagement at “Yayasan Anak Bangsa Bisa” education project. Both to provide free scholarships to Indonesian students as well as teaching them as part of the project.

The children who are a part of the scholarship program are united. Not only by the chronic illnesses but by their common desire to learn. When diagnosed with an Ovarian tumor, I felt that the illness becomes a label for me. Leading me to be judged based on the sickness in my body, not the soul and person that I am. When interacting with these kids, I saw a part of myself in them. I see people with bright imaginations, hopes, and dreams. Kids who are determined to learn yet hindered by the diseases that infiltrate their bodies.

When I teach them, when I am helping them learn their 6 times table or how to write in cursive, I realize the value of education as a form of distraction and beacon of hope. I saw how education brings hope. Hope to those who live in poverty and want to make a better living for themselves, hope to those who need a distraction from the cruel realities they are living. These kids opened up my perspective of education, of the power it holds, and the subsequent multiplier effect it has on various social, political and economic aspects. Hence, being a large inspiration for my advocacy for accessible education throughout Indonesia.