

Indonesia

Arts, Religion, and Social Change

Explore the evolving relationships among religion, fine arts, performing arts, and social organization in contemporary Indonesia.

Coursework

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit www.sit.edu/ABR for details.

Arts, Religion, and Social Change Seminar

ASIA 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students explore the dynamic ways in which Javanese and Balinese identities, religious practices, and traditional arts are changing, especially in urban settings, in response to increased engagement with global networks. Attendance at evening and weekend ritual events and performances is sometimes required.

Seminar topics typically include:

Religious Studies

During the program period in Java, seminars focus on studies of six official religions recognized by the Indonesian government. Lecturers are drawn from Sanata Darma University and from Universitas Gadjah Mada, one of Indonesia's top universities. Lectures are integrated with field visits to Islamic religious schools and ancient monuments of cultural and religious significance. Students also visit mosques, churches, and a village where Confucianism is the dominant religious practice.

Arts: Javanese and Balinese

Javanese and Balinese music; functions of dance in Java and Bali; shadow puppetry; traditional and contemporary painting; new performing arts forms; stratification of the Javanese and Balinese languages.

Cultural Anthropology

Main pillars of Islamic and Balinese religious philosophy; Balinese temple systems and sacred calendars; women and Islam; impacts of tourism on Javanese and Balinese culture; local healing systems; Javanese and Balinese family life.

History and Politics

History and traditions of Indonesia, with a special focus on Java and Bali; overview of Indonesian history; "civil Islam" and "regional autonomy" and their importance in contemporary social and political discourses.

Geography and Economics

Development policies of Indonesia; agricultural development in Bali; population trends and family planning; economic development.

Field Practicum

Students carry out fieldwork in partnership with local students in Java and Bali. During a village visit, students work together to conduct interviews focused on the roles of religion and the arts in Javanese and Balinese society. Students may also receive instruction in a Javanese or Balinese craft or art form in preparation for a required written fieldwork report.

Educational Excursions

The program has recently expanded to include two weeks in Java, the most populous island in Indonesia. Java is the original home of *tempe* and batik textiles and the site of some of the most famous ancient temples of Southeast Asia. Students visit historic and cultural sites, temple festivals, other religious rituals, performances, and local ceremonies in central Java and the Tabanan, Denpasar, and Ubud areas of Bali. They also have homestays in Java and in a predominantly Hindu village of Bali.

Intensive Language Study: Bahasa Indonesia

INDO 1000-3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours
Emphasis is on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Instructors are long-term members of the program staff and visiting lecturers from Universitas Indonesian Universities. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes. Balinese or Javanese language instruction is available for students with full competence in Indonesian.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours
A course in the process of learning across cultures and from field experience. Topics



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Bedulu, central southern Bali

Language Study Bahasa Indonesia

Homestays Yogyakarta 10 days, Ubud-Bedulu area, 5 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestays 4 days in the Tabanan area, 2 days in northern Bali

Other Accommodations Hostels or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

include cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted at an approved location in Java, Bali, or other parts of the Indonesian archipelago appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** the ritual significance of gamelan music and Balinese dance; painting in the Ramayana tradition; the representation of myth in public art; traditional healing arts and modern medicine; the export of Balinese culture via tourism; the aesthetics of religious traditions in Java and Bali; the roles of *pesantren* (religious schools) in Java; the role of women in contemporary Islamic communities of Java and Bali.