



Music, Culture and Performance: Bali Travel Seminar

December 29, 2014 - January 18, 2015

3-credit, 200-level course (TX 200C)



Located in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago and the world's most populous Muslim country. Bali is an exception.

Bali, or Bali Dewata (the Island of the Gods) is an island small in size, but densely populated with nearly 3.5 million people.

Music, dance, theater, and visual arts are ubiquitous in Bali, where artistic production is far out of proportion to the size and population of the island.



Bali

Population: 3,551,000 (2009)
Land area: 5,632 km²
Tribes: Balinese, Lolo, and others
Mining: No

★ Coffee

0 20 km

Indian Ocean

Lombok Strait

Java

Denpasar

Badung

Gianyar

Klungkung

Tabanan

Karangasem

Bangli

Buleleng

Jembrana

Bali Strait

Course Objectives

- Provide in-depth understanding of the music and performance styles of Bali
- Examine impact of colonization, globalization, and tourism on the arts and environment in Bali
- Refine and advance research and writing skills
- Perform instrumental and vocal music and dance

Course Schedule

The daily class schedule will include lectures and discussion of readings on Balinese history, culture, arts, and environment. It will also include practical instruction in traditional music, dance, painting, and wood-carving, in conjunction with Sanggar Manik Galih, the music and dance studio housed in the compound. Students will experience Balinese arts and culture through participation in daily life, attendance at a wide range of performances, and lecture-demonstrations by a variety of artists and craftsmen.

Lectures and discussions will address issues of colonialism, tourism, the environment, globalization, and modernization as they relate to Balinese culture, Balinese arts, and the island itself. All coursework provides a framework for better understanding the island's reliance on the arts and their close relationship with Balinese culture and religion.

Course requirements include: participation, individual research projects (a final paper and presentation), and a written journal.



Agama (Religion)



Though Indonesia is the largest Muslim-majority country in the world, most Balinese practice Agama Hindu Dharma, a syncretic blend of Hinduism, Buddhism, and animism that requires performing and visual arts for the successful completion of the thousands of ceremonies undertaken each year. The unique history and culture of Bali are best understood through the arts, which connect past to present, self to community, and religion to reality.

The Balinese practice a unique religion known as Agama Hindu Dharma or Agama Tirta (Balinese Hinduism or religion of the holy water) that blends Hinduism, Buddhism, and animism (spirit worship). The Balinese religion is intricately woven throughout daily life, and draws heavily on the arts.



Gamelan (Music)



Music in Bali is complex and vibrant. It is used to accompany religious ceremonies throughout the island, of which there are many. Traditional Balinese music, known as gamelan, utilizes percussive instruments and emphasizes quick, interlocking patterns.

The studio has been outfitted with a gamelan angklung, gamelan gong kebyar, gamelan gender wayang, gamelan balaganjar, and gamelan joged bumbung for course use.



Tari (Dance)



In Bali, there is rarely music without dance. Dance director Ni Ketut Marni will provide instruction in traditional Balinese dance.

Teater (Theater)

Theatrical performances in Bali range from dance-dramas and comedic characters to wayang kulit (shadow puppet theater), all accompanied by traditional Balinese gamelan.



Seni (Visual Arts)



Visual artistry in Bali can be found everywhere - from the offerings to the gods to the carved wooden door frames. We will have an opportunity to work with visual artists in the sanggar.



Lingkungan (Environment)



Bangah is located in a region of Bali known for the traditional style of growing rice. In learning about the landscape and agrarian economy of the region, we will have an opportunity to understand the environmental implications of tourism and increased Westernization on the island.

Excursions



Sanggar Manik Galih Bangah



SANGGAR
MANIK GALIH
BANGAH
226 11

Students and faculty will live in the Tangkas family compound in Bangah, a small village in central Bali.



In addition to housing the Tangkas family, the compound has been outfitted with dorm-style housing for students (with Western and traditional Balinese facilities), a stage and rehearsal space, and classroom space.

Makanan (Food)



Meals will be served family-style in the compound, with purified drinking water, coffee, tea, and fruit provided 24-hours a day.

Terima kasih (Thank you)

For details about costs and travel logistics:

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