

Biodiversity and Conservation Field Study Project

ENVI 3060 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Indonesia: Biodiversity and Conservation in Bali and Borneo

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent term. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from term to term.

Course Description

In this course students engage in research on topics of relevance to biodiversity and conservation in Indonesia. The emphasis in this project is on building a solid framework for facilitating field research, including development of appropriate research questions and methodology, use of literature and other resources to construct a strong context for proposed project work, and cultivation of sound primary data collection skills (including interview and laboratory-based skills as well as fieldwork in a narrower sense). While Field Study Projects are typically conducted in small groups, each student conducts research with a field component and produces an original academic paper whose contents are also presented orally to their peers. This course gives students the opportunity to engage in more detail with one of the themes examined in the seminar and to develop their research skills.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

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- Delimit a research question;
- Define methodology;
- Gather relevant research and data;
- Develop research collaboration skills;
- Carry out original analysis;
- Compose a coherent discussion of research findings;
- Communicate their findings to an audience.

Language of Instruction

The program will be taught in English. Language instruction in Bahasa Indonesia will be given throughout the program, to facilitate a level of immersion in the cultural milieu, vital to the holistic understanding of the context of conservation in Indonesia. Students are expected to use Bahasa Indonesia in the process of completing their study project when possible.

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Course Requirements

Course Schedule

***Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.**

Week 1 Students are introduced to the context of biodiversity and conservation in Bali.

Week 2 Students develop field research topics according to their own interests, in the general field of biodiversity and conservation issues in Indonesia. Time is scheduled in which students can discuss ideas with the academic director, but students are also encouraged to seek support with both the academic director, other members of program staff, and others who can provide insight into the field.

Weeks 3 and 4 Students develop a research prospectus that more clearly outlines research questions, methodology, and sources to be used to address the research topics. Students meet regularly with academic director for guidance. The research prospectus is submitted and graded at the end of the fourth week.

Weeks 5 and 6 During this period, time is allocated for field research projects, and students focus on collecting relevant field data. The academic director facilitates student contact with appropriate sources.. Papers are finalised and oral presentations are delivered to peers and invited guests.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments

Evaluation is based on successful completion of each component of the individual research project. Grade is determined by:

Research Prospectus

Contains an introduction to the problem being examined, a clear research question, a review of relevant literature, and an appropriate methodology with which the student will address the research question.

Research paper

Communicates the context of the problem being examined, presents analysis of data collected, discusses the issue in a relevant way, and draws original conclusions from the discussion. All references are appropriately cited.

Oral presentation of the research project

Students articulate the issue, its context, their analysis, findings and reflect on the overall process. Students respond to questions from the audience.

Assessment

Research Paper	60%
Research Prospectus	20%
Oral Presentation	20%

A full description of the expectations and assessment guidelines for each of these assignments is provided in the student handbook, which students will receive at the commencement of classes.

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Grading Scale

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Expectations and Policies

Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Examinations. They are given examinations covering the major content of these lectures, field trips and readings.

Attendance. All students are required to attend all lectures and to participate in all bi-weekly discussion and analysis sessions. All excursions are mandatory and students must discuss absences with the Academic Director before the planned departure.

Participation. Participation is not the same as attendance. All students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course. This means asking pertinent questions to the course's guest lecturers, engaging in discussion and analysis during lectures, group discussions and on excursions. Students are expected to complete the required reading in a timely fashion, and to demonstrate their understanding of texts through reflection, writing, and discussion.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: For information about and support from Disability Services (DS) to facilitate an accessible educational experience, please contact disabilityservices@sit.edu or +1-802-258-3390. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services can be found on the DS website at: <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.

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