

Contact for Lisa Gold: lgold@berkeley.edu

Music, Dance, and Theater of Java and Bali Course Syllabus
OLLI, Spring 2016, March 28-May 6
Lisa Gold

Mondays from 1-3pm

Course Description

In this course we delve into the rich world of Javanese & Balinese gamelan and its significance to those who make and appreciate it. We will view this aesthetically complex and energetic music as it conveys meaning and as it shapes and supports theater and other contexts. Through analysis of videos, films, recordings, readings, lecture-demonstrations and workshops in music, dance and shadow theater, we will examine forms of dance, theater and ritual in relation to historical and contemporary world view.

The term *gamelan* refers to bronze and bamboo ensembles found throughout Java and Bali in diverse forms. This course will include one hands-on performance workshop on the Department of Music's beautiful Javanese *gamelan*, taught by me (Lisa Gold) with a guest Javanese musician, Midiyanto S. Putro. This will be a field trip in which the class meets in the UC Berkeley Department of Music in the *gamelan* room, upstairs in Morrison Hall. Additionally, we will present one lecture-demonstration in Balinese gamelan and dance. We will bring some instruments into the usual classroom for this.

In Java and Bali the contemporary performing arts scenes encompass tradition; "Tradition" has always fostered change and individual creativity while revering the past and paying homage to "classical" forms of music, dance, and theater. In this class we will view examples of continuity and change in contemporary performances.

Readings: There are two required textbooks (available on-line through Amazon and other websites) Benjamin Brinner, *Music in Central Java* (2008, Oxford University Press, *Global Music Series*) and my book, Lisa Gold, *Music in Bali: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture*. (2005, Oxford University Press, *Global Music Series*). Both books come with a CD that you must have while reading. Additional readings are accessible on the course website and in a course reader.

Javanese Shadow Puppet Performance (*Wayang Kulit*) at UC Berkeley
Saturday, April 30, Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley
The performing gamelan ensemble, *Gamelan Sari Raras* will accompany *Dhalang* (shadow master) Midiyanto S. Putro

I will announce other performances of Balinese and Javanese music.

Course Calendar

March 28 Introduction: Southeast Asian History, Java and Bali – Historical & Cultural Connections; a taste of what is to come; Java: Introduction

Read and Listen: Brinner, *Music in Central Java* Chapters 1-3

April 4 Musical Lecture-Demonstration and workshop with Javanese musician and shadow master, Midiyanto S. Putro. This class will take place in the UCB Dept of Music Gamelan room in Morrison hall and will include a hands-on workshop learning to play Javanese *gamelan* and a lecture-demonstration on Javanese music and *wayang* (shadow puppetry). Please wear comfortable clothing for sitting on the floor. Cushions will be provided and we will accommodate those who are unable to sit on the floor.

Read and Listen: Brinner, *Music in Central Java* Chapters 5 & 6

April 11 Listening to Javanese Gamelan; Javanese *wayang kulit* (shadow puppet theater) and dance.

Read and Listen: Gold, *Music in Bali* Chapters 1-3

April 18 Balinese Music in Context: Simultaneous Soundings in the *Odalan* (temple ceremony)

Read and Listen: *Music in Bali* Chapters 4 & 5

April 25 Balinese Music, Dance and Theater: Lecture-demonstration in the classroom with guest Balinese musician Ida Bagus Made Widnyana and a Balinese dancer.

Read: Gold, Lisa, "Musical Expression in the Gender Wayang repertoire: A Bridge Between Narrative and Ritual," In, Schaareman, Danker, ed. , *Balinese Music in Context. A Sixty-Fifth Birthday Tribute to Hans Oesch*. Forum Ethnomusicologicum 4. Basel Studien Zur ethnomusicologie Herausgeben Von Hans Oesch. Basel: Amadeus: 245-275. (on course website with accompanying audio musical examples)

Read and Listen: TBD

May 2 The Traditional in the Contemporary: Music and *Wayang* (Shadow Puppet Theater) in Bali today; Course conclusions.