East Timor Field Class

23 June - 4 July 2017
Run by Dr Lisa Palmer and Assoc Professor Russell Drysdale
• The subject is designed to develop students’ understanding of the Asia-Pacific region and in particular of the complex geographies of small island and post-conflict states.
This subject consists of:

- A compulsory half day pre-departure teaching session from 1-5pm on Fri 31 March.
- A compulsory 2 hr pre-departure briefing Tues 20 June.
- A 12 day field trip to East Timor from Friday June 23 to Tues 4 July.
- A compulsory post-trip full day workshop and group presentation will take place on Friday 4 August.
• Students will gain an in situ appreciation of the historical and contemporary issues relevant to East Timor (and other Asian Pacific small island states)

• Develop their empirical and analytical research skills while carrying out small group research into the impacts of conflict, climate and culture on social and economic development and the environment.

• Participate in a number of rural, urban and remote site visits during which time they will interact with local communities, civil society leaders, academics, government and aid organizations.
• We will also look at the island’s natural history – how the island has evolved through time, the present-day geomorphology and hydrology...
...the archaeology of the island and how past and future climate affected/will affect the island.
Draft in-country itinerary
(subject to change)

• Day 1: Arrive Dili, Briefing at Haburas Foundation and visit Resistance Museum. Stay Esplanada Hotel
• Day 2: Dili-Com (leave 8am, lunch at Caravelha, continue to Com)
• Day 3; Com-Valu -visit Iralalaru lake, discussion re national park and Manina sinkhole with community members
• Day 4: Valu—visit Jaco Island and caves with community members
• Day 5: Valu-Loihunu (lunch at Baucau and site visits)
• Day 6 Loihunu-Maubisse (lunch at Betano, discussion re South Coast Industrial Zone Development plans with community members)
• Day 7 Maubisse (visit sacred houses, springs with Hakmatek Co-op members)
• Day 8 Maubisse-Dili (visit coffee/vegetable fields with Hakmatek members, visit to Leublora Green School in Maubisse, leave for Dili, stay at Liquica Black Rock Cameo Resort)
• Day 9 Liquica tour and discussion, lunch and transfer bus to Sao Paulo Centre, Dili
• Day 10 UNTL Sustainability Conference and discussion with Timorese students, lunch and transfer by minibus to airport in afternoon for departure.

• Please note: Food, accommodation and facilities will in most instances be very basic and there will not be a lot of choice. Travel outside the capital will be in four wheel drive vehicles.
• To see our the rural accommodation sites visit the website of our host facilitators the Timorese environmental NGO the Haburas Foundation and their community tourism project Uma Natureza [http://www.haburas.org/natureza/ig/index.html](http://www.haburas.org/natureza/ig/index.html)
Health Issues

• Please see the Australian Government's smart travellers advice for Timor Leste for health information. You may also wish to consult as travel doctor prior to travel.

• Travel insurance is provided by the University upon timely completion of a student travel portal entry.
Costs

• The out of pocket cost for the field class (in addition to your normal tuition fees) will be approx $2500 (please note: students will book and pay for own airfares).

• To secure your place in the field class a non refundable deposit of $400 will be due end of March. On selection students will also be asked to make their own travel arrangements and book their own airfares asap (depending on route and timing approx $1200).

• A payment of approx $700 will then be due Monday 1. This payment finalizes the costs associated with accommodation, local transport, local facilitators and most meals.

• Balance remaining approx $200. Students will be responsible for bringing money (in US dollars mostly) for their visa on arrival, 3 dinners (one at airport in Darwin on return), two lunches and two breakfasts around the capital Dili.
• Once you have confirmed your enrolment, I would encourage you to consider applying for the Melbourne Global Scholars Award, see details at

Pre-reading

• Following the 31 March half day briefing links to key textual and video resources will be made available on the subject’s LMS site.

• You will be asked to read or make yourself familiar with as much of this as possible prior to our entry into the ‘field’.
Type of Assessment for GEOG30026/GEOG90025
note: different for ugrad/pgrad

• Original daily field notes completed during field trip, Due last day in East Timor, worth 20%

• Group presentation at an all-day workshop (15/20 min; equiv. 1,500/1000 words), due 4 August, worth 30/25%

• Research report and essay (2000/3500 words), due 15 August, worth 50/55%
• Study outcomes:
  – An appreciation of the critical issues in post-conflict and small island state development;
  – An appreciation of regional landscape diversity and climate histories and the ways in which this influences social and environmental governance;
  – Familiarity with empirical research methods and cross-cultural fieldwork
Any questions please email me
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