

East Timor Field Class

10 - 23 July 2018

Run by Assoc Profs Lisa Palmer and
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:

- Compulsory pre-departure briefing sessions from 1-5pm on Friday 16th March, 1-5 pm Friday 23 March, 6-8pm wed 28th March.
- a 12 day field trip in East Timor from Wednesday 11 July to Sunday July 22 (students travelling directly to and from Melbourne will need extra night either side for overnight travel so dates are 10-23 July).
- A compulsory post-trip full day workshop and group presentation will take place on Friday 24 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.



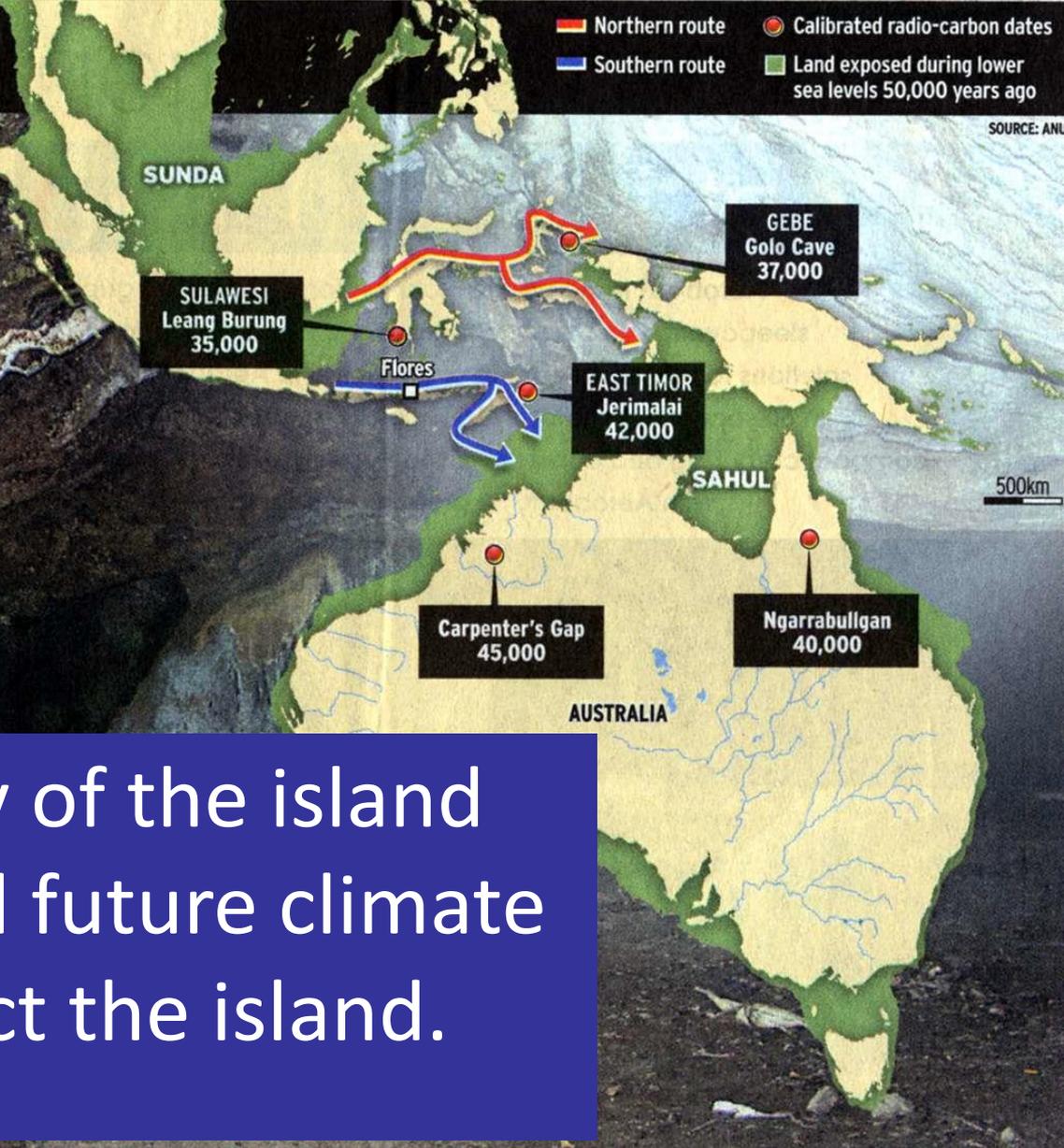




- We will also look at the island's natural history – how the island has evolved through time, the present-day geomorphology and hydrology...



The discovery of Jerimalai cave in East Timor, where people lived more than 42,000 years ago, suggests modern humans took a southerly, rather than northerly, route as they island-hopped to Australia.



- ...the archaeology of the island and how past and future climate affected/will affect the island.

Statement of Expectations

- The East Timor Field Course (GEOG30026/ GEOG90025) involves a full program of activities comprising travel to and around East Timor, including across remote and rough terrain using various modes of transportation (car, boat, foot). Students will be provided with privileged access to local Timorese communities and experiences, in both an urban, regional and rural setting. The East Timor Field Course can be emotionally and physically demanding and will include a level of personal intensity and challenge, and students are expected to manage their own personal health and safety.

Statement of Expectations cont.

Accordingly, the Faculty of Science expects that students enrolled in the East Timor Field Course:

- understand that participation in the Field Course includes a level of personal intensity and challenge, and will require students to be resilient and open to new experiences;
- attend all pre-departure briefings and proactively engage with suggested resources (travel and cultural advice) and continue to familiarise themselves with relevant issues during the pre-departure and in-country period;
- comply with the directions of Faculty staff and any Timorese staff during the Field Course;
- keep an open and non-judgemental mind about the range of issues and experiences they are exposed to in-country and be respectful and tolerant of differences among the group and between themselves and host communities and Timorese staff;
- take care of their own personal health and safety (including as outlined further below); and
- raise any individual concerns about sensitive matters in-country with Faculty staff in private.

Draft in-country itinerary (subject to change)

East Timor Field Class 2018 Itinerary: 11-22 July 2018 (12 days in Timor Leste) Max student number 20 plus 3 UoM staff

- **Wednesday 11th July:**
- Arrive Dili (students make own travel arrangements, group booking available departing Darwin at 9.55 am 10 July). From 2pm students do self-guided tour of Resistance Museum. All meet at Esplanada by 5pm (Stay at Esplanada -2-3 persons per room, dinner own expense).
- **Thursday 12th July:**
- Briefing at Haburas, afternoon visit to Centre for Memory/ CHEGA (Stay Esplanada—meals own expense)
- **Friday 13th July**
- Dili- Com (stay in guesthouse in Com)
- **Saturday 14th July**
- Com and surrounds (stay in guesthouses in Com)
- **Sunday 15th July**
- Com-Valu visiting Lake Iralalaru as in 2017 (stay at Valu)
- **Monday 16th July**
- Valu (visit cave and Jaco)
- **Tuesday 17th July**
- Valu-Baucau-Loihunu (stay Loihunu)
- **Wednesday 18th July**
- Rest day in Loihunu and student group discussions (stay Loihunu)
- **Thursday 19th July**
- Loihuni-Betanu-Maubisse (stay at Hakmatek)
- **Friday 20th July**
- Maubisse (uma lulik complex and waterfall)
- **Saturday 21th July**
- Maubisse—coffee plantations, lunch at Leubrora Green School and afternoon spent on group presentations (stay at Green School—student presentations in evening)
- **Sunday 22nd July**
- Sunday Mass in Maubisse, return Dili, lunch Haburas and final group briefing. Depart for airport 3pm (5pm flight to Darwin available for group booking)

- **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.



Health issues

Students are advised that medical facilities and standards of care in East Timor are very basic (and often vastly different to Australian standards and practices) and that the distances necessary for travel to medical facilities are often great. While the Faculty has assessed the health and safety risks involved in the Field Course and medical assistance is available in-country, students are responsible for managing their own personal health and safety during the Field Course. This includes the obligation to:

- comply with all directions from Faculty and Timorese staff relating to matters of health and safety (including in relation to no swimming in coastal areas, alcohol consumption, and staying together as a group);
- manage any existing medical or health conditions (including the administering of any medication);
- make decisions to accept or decline proposed medical treatment offered in-country unless they are otherwise incapacitated; and
- cover the costs of any medical treatment provided in-country, and if return to the capital Dili and/or a flight back to Australia is required, to cover these travel expenses.

Health and Safety Issues cont.

- Please see and familiarize yourself with the Australian Government's smart traveller advice for Timor Leste health and safety information.

https://smartraveller.gov.au/countries/timor_leston

- You should also consult a travel doctor well prior to travel.
- Travel insurance is provided by the University upon completion of an insurance form available through School of Geography field class forms page (link to be provided).

Costs

- **The cost for the field class (in addition to your normal tuition fees) will be approx. \$3300.**

In-country costs (approx. \$2000)

- **To secure your place in the field class a non refundable deposit of \$600 (due on Thursday 15 March at 4pm—an e-cart link will be provided).**
- **A payment of approx \$1300 is due on Friday 25 May. This payment finalizes the costs associated with accommodation, local transport. local facilitators and most meals.**

(Final amount will be confirmed via email in mid May)

- **Balance remaining approx US\$70-100.** Students will be responsible for bringing money (in US dollars) for their visa on arrival tax, 1 lunch and 2 dinners in the capital Dili.

Costs cont.

Flights

- Students can fly to Timor Leste via Darwin or Bali.
- Costs vary but the cheapest available usually total around \$1300 return.
- Group Booking option:

We can make a group booking flying Airnorth Darwin-Dili return for \$730 pp (dep 9.55 am 11 July, return 5pm 23 July). We need a minimum of nine people to make this booking and your interest must be confirmed to me by email by March 16.

- Once you have confirmed your enrolment, I would encourage you to consider applying for the Melbourne Mobility Award (\$1000), see details at <https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au/awards/melbourne-mobility-awards>

Pre-reading

- Following the first 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'.
- To prepare for the fieldtrip and related assessment you are asked to read broadly across the five subject themes of
 - 1. Catchments 2. Climate 3. Land and Livelihoods 4. development 5. Politics of Nation-Building

What you need to bring (please try to pack lightly)

Essential

- Backpack (if possible with small padlocks for zips)
- Pillow case
- Thin Foam Sleeping mat/Therma Rest
- Light sleeping bag
- Mozzie net
- Sturdy field boots
- Hat, Sunscreen
- Thongs
- Light long sleeve clothes and shorts/long pants
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Field items: notebook x2, pens/pencils, ruler, calculator, weather protection for notebook
- Torch
- Spare small backpack for walking
- Light jacket/thermals for mountains
- Loo paper
- Rid Mozzie Repellent

Optional

- Laptop
- Camera
- Music (subject to approval by the coordinator!)
- Energy/muesli bars and other long life food items
- Face wipes

Type of Assessment for GEOG30026/GEOG90025

note: different for ugrad/pgrad

- Original daily field notes completed during field trip on subject themes, **Due last day in East Timor**, worth 20% (max 250 wds each day)
- Group presentation at an all-day workshop (15/20 min; equiv. 1,500/1000 words), due 24 August, worth 30/25%
- Research report and essay (2000/3500 words), due 7 Sept, worth 50/55% (**Research topic/question due last day in East Timor**)

- 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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