Study Tour to Timor-Leste: Contextualising the Development-Peace-Security Nexus

International Studies (HUSO 1301) and International Development (HUSO 2263),
Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University

Second Semester 2011

Course Outline

This course will draw together theoretical and conceptual thinking on the nature of relationship between development, peace-building and security studies—referred to here as the ‘Development-Peace-Security Nexus’. The nature of each of these processes, and the increasing tendency to see them as interlinked (for instance through human security), is a feature of post-intervention efforts to improve the material well-being of individuals and communities and provide ways to end conflict. Through a study tour of Timor-Leste, this course will contextualise theoretical claims by inquiring into how they either help to understand, or impact upon, the everyday actuation of programs and policies. In terms of providing context, the study tour will focus on the period from the final year in Timor-Leste’s war for independence (1999) until the present, with a particular focus on the socio-political crisis across 2006-2008. In this way the tour will provide a first-hand account of how a conflict can unfold, a sense of its consequences, and in particular the possibilities for peace and security in the aftermath.

Course Program

Please note that the study tour aspect of this course will be undertaken in the semester break in the middle of 2011. As such, the lectures and workshops that help prepare for the tour will occur across first semester 2011, though the course itself will count as a second semester subject in 2011.

From March to June 2011

- Lectures on the main themes of the course, in particular laying the theoretical foundations for the ‘Development-Peace-Security Nexus’.
- A workshop on pre-departure information including security, health, culture and logistics.
- A Pre-departure group activity.

These workshops will occur in the evening on the RMIT City campus across semester one and attendance is a compulsory part of the subject. Across this time students are expected to also;

- Undertake thematic readings (a substantive reading list will be provided).
- Preparing project related activities for implementation in Timor-Leste (if relevant to your assessment)
- Managing pre-departure matters such as health vaccinations/registering with the Australian Embassy/and so on.

25 June to 9 July 2011: Study Tour to Timor-Leste (Dates tentative, to be confirmed).

As an example of the kinds of activities that the study tour may include;

- Meeting with NGOs, Government organisations and UN staff in Dili and Baucau.
- Meeting with local CBOs and local communities in rural and urban areas of Timor-Leste.
Meetings with Australian Defence Force personnel and members of the F-FDTL and the PNTL.

Visiting local institutions such as the Post-CAVR Secretariat, The Resistance Museum, the Parliament and public memorials, with discussions of how these individual sites sit in relation to the broader course themes.

Contextualised site visits (such as the Santa Cruz massacre in 1991 and the site of the police massacre in 2006) that link individual events back to course themes.

10 days in Dili (inc. one to two days of personal time), one day trip to Ermera and 3 days between Baucau and Venilale.

Four themed lectures by RMIT staff linking the daily activities and experiences back to the themes of the course.

Students will also be encouraged to visit local areas of Dili and interact with East Timorese at every opportunity.

Please note that not all activities will take place as a single group. We may break activities up for either logistical reasons, or depending on assessment tasks, or to reduce the cultural impact of 20 people undertaking one activity simultaneously. It is expected that each evening students and staff will gather for planning, feedback and reflections over dinner.

**9 July to 1 September**

- A group debriefing
- One on one debriefing
- Main assessments completed

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**Assessment**

1. **A formal argumentative essay on the themes of the course**
   
   Length: 2500 words
   
   Due: 1 September 2011
   
   Percentage of overall mark: 50 per cent.

2. **A fact sheet on one of 18 themes related to subject themes and a short presentation in Timor-Leste.**
   
   Length: 1000 words
   
   Due: End of study tour 2011
   
   Percentage of overall mark: 30 per cent.

3. **Participation: 20 percent**

   Given that people bring different sets of experiences, abilities, contacts and objectives to a course such as this, there is the possibility that different assessment can be negotiated with the course co-ordinator.

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**Application Process**

The study tour is by application only and is strictly limited to 18 students. Please see the application form and submit by the due date (no late applications will be accepted, and application forms not appropriately filled out will be rejected out of hand). All applications will be reviewed and unsuccessful applicants will be contacted. All short listed candidates will be interviewed by RMIT staff for final selection. Applications close on 15 February 2011 and face-to-face interviews
will occur at the discretion of the course co-ordinator in the first week of March 2011 on RMIT City Campus in Melbourne.

Costs

There are two sets of costs involved.

1. **Materials Fee:** Students will pay a materials fee of $977 to RMIT University which will cover;
   - Accommodation, twin share rooms, in hotels in Dili and Baucau.
   - Breakfasts where they are not included in hotel costs.
   - A simple local dinner cooked each night.
   - A mobile phone sim card with phone credit for tour related activities (personal calls need to be paid for by the tour participant).
   - Car-hire for outside of Dili, including 4-wheel drive transport where necessary.
   - Cost for local staff, assistance with translation, and the use of a local office/meeting space and facilities.
   - Costs associated with community visits.
   - Costs for tour-related taxis/buses within Dili.
   - The distribution of additional printed materials in field by the course co-ordinator.

2. **Students will need to purchase all other items including:**
   - Travel Insurance (with provision for emergency evacuation and compensation in case this study tour is cancelled). This is a compulsory item and students who do not have insurance will not be permitted to participate in the tour.
   - Airfares to and from Timor-Leste (these can range from as low as $600 Melbourne-Dili return to as much as twice that, depending on airline, advance purchases and so forth).
   - Visas on entry, taxes on entry (approximately $US 40 in total) and obtain or renew passports if necessary.
   - Lunches in country/other food/drinks (depends on individual tastes, but students should budget at a minimum $10 USD if willing to eat very simply).
   - Any personal/incidental items
   - Any other costs.

The study tour and subject will be led by Damian Grenfell and will be assisted by another RMIT teaching staff member as well as local staff in Timor-Leste.

About 'Timor-Leste Research'

Timor-Leste Research (TLR) (www.timor-leste.org) is based at RMIT University and is primarily situated across the Globalism Research Centre and the Global Cities Institute. Researchers from the Globalism Research Centre (www.rmit.edu.au/globalism) have been working in Timor-Leste since 2003, and as with other sites within Australia and the Asia-Pacific, our main intellectual task has been to understand processes of change and continuity, and to think through cultural-political questions such as nation-formation in a globalizing world. We endeavour to work across the divide between abstract theory and applied research and we seek to develop strong collaborative connections with communities, civil society and state organisations in our research areas. RMIT’s Global Cities Institute (www.global-cities.info) was inaugurated in 2006 and brings together key researchers in order to understand the complexity of globalizing urban settings. As part of the Global Cities Institute, the Timor-Leste Research Program has developed its work to incorporate Dili as a major site for its research. For more information on the projects produced through this study please see www.timor-leste.org