

Seminar:
New Zealand Culture and Society I

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Credit : 2 | Semester : Spring | Year : 3~4
Day/Period : Tue 4th

[Subject]

New Zealand is one of the most popular destinations among nature-lovers and fans of world-acclaimed movies, such as *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Its flourishing economy and relaxed lifestyle also attracts immigrants and long-stayers from all over the world. It is little known, however, that this small country with a population of a little over four million has been leading the world in the political, economic and social domains, with particular regard to women's suffrage, the anti-nuclear movement and wildlife conservation. It is unfortunate that Japan's mass media only focuses on tourism, showing little interest in the realities of NZ life.

This seminar's aim is to invite discussion about NZ's cultural and social issues with frequent reference to its multi-ethnicity and multilingualism. We will be exploring all aspects of *Aotearoa*, the Land of the Long White Cloud, from its diplomatic relations with the UK/USA/Australia to its popular culture on the streets.

[Goal]

By the end of the course, students will:

- 1 have acquired substantial understanding of the major cultural and social issues in NZ,
- 2 have developed the skills needed to collect and analyse data for research purposes,
- 3 have learned to make an effective PowerPoint presentation.

[Course Description]

All participants will collaborate on the readings at first and when significant topics for understanding the culture and society are encountered, a few students will be assigned to give detailed presentations the next week. Other students will be expected to contribute to the discussions with their observations. Audio-visual media will often be used in the class; students may need to drop by a video rental shop to further their investigations. At the end of the semester, students are expected to write an essay on their assigned topic. During this academic year, the book cited below will be used for common readings to identify key cultural-historical events. This book is a collection of X-files: UFO/monster sightings, hidden treasures, Europeans reaching NZ earlier than Abel Tasman, which are all well researched and full of insight. Our interest is placed on the historical/geographical/social contexts where these phenomena have 'occurred or been witnessed,' rather than in the investigation into the truth.

Students can expect that skills learned during this seminar, e.g., the collecting, screening and the presenting of information, in addition to working collaboratively, will improve their employability.

[Schedule]

No.	Theme	Contents
1	Introduction	Outlining the course content and instructional methodologies
2	Was the Tasman the First?	Common readings
3	Class presentations I (1)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics
4	Class presentations I (2)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics
5	Treasure Trove	Common readings
6	Class presentations II (1)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics

7	Class presentations II (2)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics
8	Class presentations II (3)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics
9	Review or catch-up	Review or catch-up lecture
10	Movie Time	NZ culture and history through films
11	What happened to Emerald?	Common readings
12	Class presentations III (1)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics
13	Class presentations III (2)	Students giving presentations on assigned topics
14	Review or catch-up	Review or catch-up lecture
15	Movie Time	NZ culture and history through films; final discussion, essay submission

[Work to be done outside class (preparation etc.)]

Students are required to print out the maps and reading materials posted on the course website and the handouts e-mailed by the presenters every week. These should be to read carefully in advance so that they can actively participate in the discussions.

[Textbooks]

The following book has been out of print for years and used copies now sell at a premium. The necessary chapters will be photocopied and distributed by the lecturer.

Gosset, R. (1996). *New Zealand mysteries* (2nd ed.). Auckland: The Bush Press of New Zealand. [ISBN 0-908608-73-X]

[References]

Handouts and reference materials will be posted on the website or provided in the classroom. The following websites will be very useful as an introductory reference:

Ministry for Culture and Heritage. (2011). *Te Ara: The encyclopedia of New Zealand*. <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en>

Ministry for Culture and Heritage. (2011). *New Zealand history online*. <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/>

New Zealand Tourism Board. (2012). *100% pure New Zealand*. <http://www.newzealand.com/travel/International/>

[Grading Criteria]

Evaluation will be based on class participation and discussion (20%), presentation (50%) and a submitted essay (30%). More than two unexcused absences per semester will result in failure of the course.

[Changes following previous student comments]

Not applicable.

[Prerequisite]

None.