

ENR 5797.03/.04:
Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment
New Zealand

May Session 2017

ENR 5797.03: 3 credits

ENR 5797.04: 3 credits

(Section content described further below)

Resident Director

Dr. Bob Gates
383C Kottman Hall
614-292-9571
gates.77@osu.edu

Teaching Assistant

Esther Debusk
210 Kottman Hall
614-292-2265
debusk.5@osu.edu

Course description

This course integrates diverse ecological, biological, and social science disciplines to examine relationships between human societies and the natural environment. The course incorporates lectures from faculty and practitioners with experiential activities in the network of human communities and natural areas in New Zealand's South Island to build an understanding of ecological concepts, how ecological conditions influence human cultures and communities, and how these factors interact to affect environmental policy and management.

The course begins with lectures from leading experts from New Zealand universities, government departments (e.g., Department of Conservation), iwi (Maori tribes), and scientific research bodies (e.g., Landcare Research) to provide a foundation in the natural and social history of New Zealand's South Island. Building on this foundation, we use a combination of field activities, lectures, and discussions to explore the application of class content in a variety of contexts. Specific areas of emphasis include ecology and conservation management in alpine environments, effects of glaciation on flora and fauna in relation to recreation, interactions between agriculture and forestry practices and environmental management, sustainable development and tourism on the primitive west coast, and the environmental perspectives of indigenous cultures. To explore these topics, the class will visit National Parks (including Fiordland National Park, Abel Tasman, Fox Glacier in Westland Tai Poutini National Park), a Maori marae, practicing farms, and ecotourism operators in Queenstown, Kaikoura and other locations. Class time will include a variety of learning activities including lectures, readings, essay questions, debates, team projects, and student presentations.

Course objectives

This course is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the interactions of human and natural systems using a case study of the South Island of New Zealand.

By the end of the program students will be able to:

1. Integrate and apply multiple natural and social science disciplinary perspectives to describe the evolution of human and natural systems over time in the South Island.
2. Describe interactions between human and natural systems and consequences for how such systems are managed.
3. Apply critical thinking skills to assess course content and examine application to real-world challenges and to other locations.
4. Participate as an effective member of a diverse team.
5. Effectively communicate through oral and written methods.

Course credit

Accepted students will be enrolled in two sections of ENR 5797 (3 credit hours each). Students will be registered for these credits by the Office of International Affairs. Upon successful completion of the course, grades will be posted during summer semester.

Topics addressed by each section include:

ENR 5797.03: Human behaviors, Policy and governance, Cultural diversity, Philosophies of natural resource/environmental management

ENR 5797.04: Climate influences on natural systems, Ecological structure and function, Natural and anthropogenic disturbances, Ecological processes and interactions between ecological systems

Attendance and lateness policy

Punctual attendance at all scheduled program-related activities is required; including group meetings, discussions, field excursions, as well as lectures and any other scheduled activities. Participation in field activities (such as hiking, swimming, etc.) is voluntary and at the discretion of the student. Should you wish not to participate, you must inform the resident director and an alternate activity will be assigned. An excused absence or decision not to participate in one or any of these field activities will not affect your grade for the course. During the field studies, no student is to leave the group without the consent of the resident director. Students will lose 10% of their final grade for each day or part-day they fail to participate unless an absence is approved by Dr. Gates or Esther DeBusk,. Any unexcused absences or continued late arrival to program activities may, at the discretion of Dr. Gates, be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Academic honesty

All academic work must meet OSU and AUIP standards of academic honesty (as described in the AUIP Student Manual and the OSU Code of Conduct). Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Academic dishonesty is not just copying the work of others, but also includes such behaviors as tolerating the academic dishonesty of others or giving false reasons for failure to participate in academic activities.

You must write your essay answers in your own words. Copying blocks of text from sources is plagiarism. You may quote source material, but the quote must be brief (i.e., a couple of sentences), enclosed within quotation marks, and cited in the text and reference section. Ask in advance if you are uncertain regarding the appropriate use of

material from other sources. Penalty for academic dishonesty may result in an “E” grade for the course and additional University disciplinary action.

Conduct regulations

All students must be familiar with the general conduct regulations described in the AUIP Student Manual as well as the behavioral expectations developed in the course orientation. Failure to obey these policies may result in dismissal from the program.

Special accommodations

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and reach out to the course instructor individually **at least four weeks prior to departure** to discuss specific needs and accommodations.

Students are responsible for proactive communication regarding these accommodations and retroactive accommodations may not be possible. ODS is located in Baker East and can be contacted at (614) 292-3307 (voice), (614) 292-0900 (TDD) and online at www.osu.edu/units/ods.

Coursebook and required readings

The Course Reading Packet is available pre-departure and contains all required readings and supporting materials to complete coursework plus some general helpful information. You will be notified via email and through the course Canvas page when the packets are ready to order. **You must bring this with you as copies will not be available in-country.**

Pre-departure preparation

Four required readings will be posted on Canvas that cover concepts from the social and ecological sciences as they relate to sustainability. The required readings provide information you will need to respond to essay questions (see Course assignments in the following section). We will ask you to calculate your “ecological footprint” based on an assessment of your personal lifestyle.

We would like you to do some personal investigation and individual reading about the history, culture, geography, and government of New Zealand before you leave, including

Additional pre-departure readings posted on Carmen:

- 1) Excerpts from The Penguin History of New Zealand by Michael King
- 2) Guns Germs and Steel, Chapter 2: A Natural Experiment of History: How geography molded societies on Polynesian islands, by Jared Diamond
- 3) Wikipedia links, New Zealand government

Additional Recommended Readings:

Making Peoples: A History of the New Zealanders by James Belich

An Illustrated History of the Treaty of Waitangi by Claudia Orange

A Traveler’s History of New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands by John Chambers

Course assignments

- **Pre-departure orientation, culture and geography quiz, two essay questions and four readings on Canvas (10%)** - Due by **5:00 PM Thursday 5/3/18** to Dr. Gates' mailbox in room 210 Kottman Hall.

The pre-departure culture and geography quiz is found on Canvas. You may use the internet and/or library resources to complete the quiz. Submit your completed quiz to Dr. Gates' mailbox in 210 Kottman Hall.

In addition to this quiz, you are required to write short essay answers to the following three questions, based on your ecological footprint and the four required readings:

1. What is the value of your "Ecological Footprint"? Were you surprised by the results? How does this affect your thinking about the sustainability of your lifestyle?
2. Briefly explain four of the most novel (to you) social (2) and ecological (2) concepts from the required readings and discuss how each concept is relevant to sustainability.
3. How do you expect any of the topics from the required readings will be relevant to your experience in New Zealand?

Your response to these questions does not require references or data sources; rather, you should respond with your own personal thoughts. There are no right or wrong answers. Submit each essay of no more than 200-250 typed words (per question) in Times New Roman 12 point font (double-spaced). Type your name on the top-right corner of the first page. Be sure to include your first and last name.

Field modules and site quizzes (60%)

The course is organized around five modules - four that will be completed in New Zealand and one module including a reflective essay that will be completed upon your return. The modules integrate what we learn in readings and lectures with real-world experiences. The Course Reading Packet and the field experts will provide the necessary information to help you complete the module activities. Note that the field experts are resources to help you complete the modules but not to provide you with answers; their role is to guide you in discovering them yourselves. Modules will include a combination of essay questions, debates, discussions, oral presentation, and/or quizzes. Written answers to the module questions are due at intervals throughout the program (described in the itinerary). The final module includes readings and essay questions to encourage reflection and consider application of your experiences and course concepts to your life following the program. Follow the instructions in the Course Reading Packet to respond to each question. Responses to modules 1 – 4 will be handwritten while the final module should be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font (double-spaced) and submitted as one electronic (Word or .pdf) file (titled "Last name.FirstName.Module5Essays") to the appropriate dropbox on Canvas by **June 8, 2018 at 5 pm**. While grades will be primarily content-based,

neatness and grammar will be considered in assigning grades. Each module question will be graded as follows:

- A Explains the core concept(s) very clearly and provides evidence of real thought. The response is technically correct, gives the most relevant and best examples, is very clear and well-written, includes only relevant material and is thoughtfully concise.
- A- A very good answer, nearly worthy of an A grade but may contain some minor content, grammatical, and/or editorial corrections.
- B+ A strong answer that clearly shows thorough understanding of the material but does not contain all the necessary content.
- B Discernable evidence of grasp of concept, good and correct examples given, well-written, thoughtfully concise.
- B- A well-written answer that contains most (but not all) of the content required and may suffer from some grammatical and/or editorial mistakes and omissions.
- C Adequate but limited grasp of core concept(s), some examples although not necessarily the best or most relevant, legible. May lack conciseness or clarity in the response.
- D Little or no grasp of core concept(s), or incorrect or no examples given, or hard to read or poorly written.
- E Fails to address the question, or little or no grasp of core concept and incorrect or no examples given, or illegible.

- **Final exam (30%)**

The final exam will be comprehensive across the program, and may draw material from any reading, field exercises, lectures, or discussions. The exam will comprise a mixture of questions including multiple-choice, essay and short answer. The final exam will be conducted in-country.

Grade assessment

Final grades for this course will be based on the following breakdown:

A	93%	C+	77%
A-	90%	C	73%
B+	87%	C-	70%
B	83%	D+	67%
B-	80%	D	60%
		E	< 60%

Course topics

See the itinerary for a full list and schedule of field activities and lectures.