

ITINERARY **(subject to change)**

DAY 1 – Arrive in Christ Church, NZ

DAY 2 and 3 – orientation, guided tours in Christ Church

DAY 4 – Day-long field trip to Banks Peninsula

DAY 5 – Free day to explore town

DAY 6 - Lectures and museum visits

DAYS 7 – 20- depart for Mt. Cook and begin tour by road through the South Island visiting the Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Fox Glacier, the wild and rocky west coast, the north end of the South Island to visit the Abel Tasman National Park, and the dolphins and whales of the Kaikoura area.

DAY 21 – Return to Christ Church

DAY 22 - Depart and arrive in the US

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To apply:
<http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu>



Kayaking at Abel Tasman

Getting “Waterfalled” in Milford Sound



Glacier Hike at Fox Glacier

Sustaining Human Society and the Natural Environment in New Zealand

Wintermester
December 26, 2009
January 18, 2010.

6 credits—spring 2010



Course Description

Instructors

Dr. Bill Carstensen, Professor and head of the Department of Geography, College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech will be the lead instructor. Robert W. Morrill, professor emeritus of the department of Geography will be the co-instructor. The course will enlist supporting lectures from faculty at Lincoln University and University of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand) and local field experts from leading environmental and natural resource organizations in New Zealand. Local support and logistics will be provided by AUIP.

Course description

This 23 day study abroad program will examine the natural and social history and resource conservation of New Zealand's South Island using a Geographic, ecological landscape perspective. New Zealand's isolation, after its separation from the ancient Gondwanaland millions of years ago, has left this island nation with a unique natural heritage. The plants and animals that have evolved here are unknown elsewhere in the world. Our program will focus on topics related to sustainable development (sustaining human societies and the natural environment) through educational travel, field trips, active participation, lecture presentations and seminars, and coursework exercises. The goal of this course is using the New Zealand case to integrate the different perspectives of diverse natural, biological, and social science disciplines to improve understanding of relationships between human societies and the natural environment. The impact of humans on natural resources and their sustainable use and conservation will be emphasized.

Course objectives

By the end of the program you will:

- Understand the natural history, biogeography, ecological diversity, and related social and cultural contexts of New Zealand through an exploration of the South Island's network of national parks and protected areas, which encompass rainforests, glaciers, mountains, coastlines, marine reserves, and offshore islands;
- Understand the impacts of human actions on the natural systems, and human responses to those changes, using the case of New Zealand's South Island;
- Develop an understanding of ecological education practices, integrated natural resource management, and conservation actions throughout New Zealand's South Island;
- Address relationships between human societies and their natural environments from multiple disciplinary perspectives and to develop a complex, multi-faceted and holistic view of human – environment connections that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.



Hooker Glacier Hike: Mt. Cook

Credit

Register for a total of 6 semester credits for the spring 2010 semester at Virginia Tech at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Register for NR 3954 (for undergraduate credit) or NR 5954 (for graduate credit.) To avoid needing a check sheet substitution later on, if you are an undergraduate Geography major please sign up for 6 hours of GEOG 3954. All courses are named "Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment – New Zealand". Regardless of which course you register for, all students will receive the same course material.

Virginia Tech undergraduate students seeking upper level Biology credits will be *required* to follow an embellished academic format including additional reading material and a paper to be completed upon return.

Virginia Tech students seeking graduate credit in this program are *required* to produce a capstone paper (at graduate standards) following the completion of this program. The subject and timing for submission will be determined by the VT faculty in charge. Graduate students will be required to contact the instructor in advance of the course to set up the requirements and timeline of this assignment.

Approximate	Program Fee	\$3,395	Costs:
	Meals*	\$600	
	Airfare from LAX	\$1,400	
	Airfare to LAX**	\$400	
	Tuition***	\$0	
		\$5795	

*some meals are included in NZ. This estimate is for those that are not.

** based on fares found 9-14-09 between DC and Roanoke and LAX

*** tuition is for spring 2010. If a full time student in spring, there is no additional tuition above 12 hours.



Mt. Cook from Glen Tanner



<http://www.education>

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