

Discover Aotearoa/New Zealand

A selection of New Zealand
and Pacific-focused courses

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New Zealand/Pacific-focused courses in Humanities

[ANTH 204 Pacific and New Zealand Archaeology](#)

An archaeological perspective on cultural change in the Pacific Islands, including New Zealand, from earliest human settlement until the early colonial era. Topics covered include the voyaging and exploration strategies leading to island discovery and settlement; the development of Pacific economies and social systems; and how these were transformed during the colonisation of ever more remote islands.

[ANTH 205 Anthropology and the Contemporary Pacific](#)

An introduction to the anthropology of contemporary Pacific cultures with reference to how ethnography and theory address representation, social and environmental change in the region. We consider the notions of belonging and identity for peoples of the Pacific and the challenges in negotiating these identities both collectively from the earliest migrations of Pacific peoples across expansive oceans to individually tracing one's ancestry through time and space. Gender issues in the contemporary Pacific will be a recurring theme throughout this paper.

[ANTH 321 Archaeozoology](#)

Approaches to the study of animal remains from archaeological sites. Students will develop practical skills in the identification of fauna encountered in archaeological sites in New Zealand and the Pacific.

[ANTH 330 New Zealand Archaeology](#)

Examination of past and recent research in archaeology of the New Zealand region (North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Subantarctic Islands), from initial human settlement until the recent past. This paper offers students new and stimulating archaeological insights into the origins, development, identities and interactions of the Māori, Moriori, and later settler peoples of New Zealand.

[EDUC 251 Education in New Zealand: Policy and Treaty Issues](#)

A critical examination of policy, school management and Treaty issues in New Zealand education with special focus on changes in the 1980s and 1990s. The course examines post-Treaty historical developments in relations between Māori and Pākehā subsequent to the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, (the Treaty of Waitangi), the emergence of neo-liberalism, with special regard to the practice and organisation of education.

[HIST 107 New Zealand in the World from the 18th Century](#)

New Zealand history in a global perspective: the way forces of imperialism, colonisation, capitalism and racial conflict have shaped modern New Zealand and its place in the world. This paper pays particular attention to Māori and settler societies, migrations and explorations, cross-cultural passions and tensions, conflicts and wars, and social, environmental and political movements in shaping New Zealand's modern identity.

[HIST 327 Interpreting Māori Lives: Rebels, Radicals and Reformers](#)

The representation of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Māori leaders through popular culture, including biography, autobiography, novels and other media. This paper examines why Māori leaders have been cast as 'rebels', 'radicals' and 'reformers' and how Māori have challenged these representations as part of a wider push to decolonise the historical past.

[INDS 301 Māori and Indigenous Development: Governance and Ethics](#)

This paper engages with ideas of Indigenous development, governance and ethics through learning about how cultural, social, environmental and economic variables work towards effecting intergenerational development for Māori/Indigenous peoples. A three-day Iwi/Community development practicum is a compulsory part of the paper.

LAWS 455 Māori Land Law

Legal issues concerning Māori land holding, including occupation and use. Issues explored in this paper include the economic and business opportunities afforded to owning and managing Māori land, including the implications for building on Māori land and raising finance; the role of tikanga Māori in utilising and retaining Māori land; restricted testamentary freedom and relationship property issues unique to Māori land; Māori land trusts, and title reconstruction issues concerning partition, easements and landlocked land.

MANT 340 Indigenous Management and Organisation

Analysis and application of an Indigenous Māori cultural framework as a lens to better understand contemporary organisational issues, such as bicultural governance, structure, ethical leadership and organisational behaviours. This course introduces Māori values that are at the heart of many of our most successful tribal and entrepreneurial enterprises in Aotearoa New Zealand, and considers how these values influence processes of management and organization.

MAOR 102 Māori Society

An introduction to the theory and practice of Māori culture and society in traditional and contemporary contexts. A student who completes this paper will be equipped with the knowledge and cultural awareness to participate more fully in New Zealand society. The student will also develop a broader indigenous perspective that can be applied globally.

MAOR 108 Waiata: Te Timatanga (Māori performing art)

An introductory study of various forms of waiata (Māori performing art) including haka from traditional to contemporary times. This paper is designed to provide students with an understanding of the Māori worldview from the basis of the Māori language and Māori customary lore as expressed through the medium of the performing arts.

MAOR 110 Introduction to Conversational Māori

An introduction to Māori language with emphasis on pronunciation, greetings, and forms of language in particular cultural contexts. Students will develop a basic conversational fluency, learn some basic sentence structure patterns, and gain confidence in using these patterns both in writing and in speaking, as well as aural confidence in listening to basic Māori language.

MAOR 203 Ngāi Tahu Society

An introduction to the knowledge base of traditional Ngāi Tahu society (mana whenua in the Otago region), with emphasis on traditional lifestyles. Some of the topics covered are mythical ancestors and their deeds, whakapapa, imagery and food. Field trips to various sites of importance to Ngāi Tahu, as well as a visit to the Hocken Library collection, are included in this paper.

MAOR 204 Te Tiriti o Waitangi

The history and politics of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) in both its historical and contemporary contexts which advance an Indigenous position.

MFCO 216 New Zealand Cinema

A study of New Zealand film with emphasis placed upon historical and theoretical approaches. This paper is designed as a study of New Zealand cinema in its institutional and historical context with regard to some key issues: the political economy of filmmaking in New Zealand; the socio-historical context of both the subject matter and production environment of several films; problems that arise in trying to articulate precisely what "New Zealand cinema" is and, by extension, what New Zealand is and who New Zealand filmmakers are (and, for that matter, New Zealanders generally).

PACI 103 Languages and Cultures of the Pacific: An Introduction

An introduction to Tongan language and culture. It focuses on the main aspects of the Tongan culture as well as basic conversational and written Tongan in the New Zealand context.

PACI 201 Contemporary Pacific Island Issues

Contemporary social, political and economic issues affecting peoples living in the Pacific region. Focus on urbanisation, land, poverty, climate change and social issues.

PACI 301 Gafa o Tagata Pasifika - Pacific Diaspora in New Zealand

The Pacific diaspora living in New Zealand, including issues such as identity, culture, spirituality, education and contemporary music.

POLS 102 New Zealand Politics – Introduction

The study of institutions and processes of the New Zealand political system. This paper teaches about the way things work (like the voting system), about the major institutions and what they do (like Parliament), about how the political processes work (like policy development), and about New Zealand political history. It will also encourage students to think critically about why New Zealand's parties, systems, processes, institutions and economy are the way they are.

POLS 221 New Zealand Political Parties and Elections

Electoral politics, with special reference to New Zealand. At the centre of democracy, political parties and elections are vital parts of determining the shape of society. But how do they work? Do they work well at all? This course provides a critical examination of the role of these institutions in contemporary New Zealand.

POLS 306 Politics and the Media in New Zealand

The political roles, functions and effects of the media in New Zealand. How do we know that the media's powerful influence is being used to help inform citizens about public issues, to hold public officials accountable for their actions, to help reflect public opinion, or to provide a forum for public debate? Is it possible the media is being used as a propaganda tool to defend the economic, social and political agendas of privileged groups in society? And is social media designed to maximise profit or maximise democracy? These are the questions that this course seeks to explore.

POLS 319 Treaty Politics (Treaty of Waitangi)

Examines fundamental and topical Treaty of Waitangi issues. Includes analysis of the Treaty Settlement process; investigation of the partners 'Crown' and 'Māori'; and considers the implications of constitutional reforms for Māori.

PSYC 329 Cultural Psychology

How are our psychologies shaped by culture? This paper addresses key themes concerning the role of culture in shaping psychological processes, with particular focus on Māori world views, and Pacific cultural contexts.

PSYC 330 Drugs, Behaviour, Addiction and Policy

Theory of drug use and abuse; neurobiology of drug effects; drug policy and law in New Zealand and the world.

SOCI 101 Sociology of New Zealand Society

This paper will introduce key concepts in sociology, dealing in particular with class, gender and race/ethnicity, and apply them to case studies in New Zealand society.

SOCI 207 Families and Society

This paper introduces key ideas and concepts about the family, as well as considering how issues like poverty and disability impact upon the family. This paper will help students consider multiple perspectives on the family; engage in key debates about the family and its construction; and reflect on their own personal experiences and reactions to the family in all its forms in the broader structural contexts of Aotearoa/ New Zealand society.

SOCI 211 Colonisation, Globalisation and Social Justice

Whakapapa (genealogy) provides the conceptual framework for a detailed sociological account of colonisation and social justice that focuses on both Aotearoa and the globalising processes of capitalism. Students will understand their present experiences by tracing their whakapapa through history, to understand the relationships and interrelation between various peoples, entities and processes over time.

SOCI 305 Family Demography

Families are at the core of changing populations. This paper explains how we have reached 7 billion people on Earth and what comes next. The key is understanding trends in childbearing, lifespans, and migration. To do this, we will introduce key demographic concepts, which you will use to describe changes globally and in New Zealand.

SOWK 111 Working with People: The New Zealand Context

An introduction to the integration of social science concepts and their application to the social services from a Treaty-based perspective. Students will gain knowledge of, and the ability to critically analyse, the historical conditions that have shaped the relationship between tangata whenua and tauwiwi.

SOWK 236 The Treaty and Social Services

The application of the Treaty of Waitangi in social services in New Zealand. Students will gain knowledge of current theories and explanation that seek to implement a Treaty-based practice approach and will be able to apply that knowledge to a practice situation, as well as be able to discuss the impact of the Treaty on current service provision.

SOWK 304 Kaupapa Māori, and Indigenous Approaches to Social Work

The application of Kaupapa Māori, Pacifica and indigenous approaches, including cross-cultural contexts, to social work practice.

SPEX 207 Understanding Sports Coaching

An examination of what it means to be a sports coach in Aotearoa/New Zealand, drawing on research grounded in pedagogy, psychology, sociology, economics, gender, environmental science and management.



New Zealand/Pacific-focused courses in Health Science

[MAOH 201 Hauora Māori in Practice: Working with Individuals and Whānau](#)

This paper aims to provide students with a foundation in theory and practice for roles engaging with Māori as individuals and whānau in health, disability and social sectors. Encompasses Te Ao Māori contexts, interpersonal skills, key health issues and inter-professional approaches.

[PACH 201 Pacific Health: New Zealand and the Pacific Region](#)

Introduction to Pacific Peoples' health. Explores socio-economic determinants of Pacific Health, culture, and well-being and the context and journey of Pacific peoples in NZ, including major determinants of health. This paper will present Pacific models of health, belief systems, values, principles and ethical approaches, outline the Pacific research protocols and provide foundational cultural competency training in the three largest ethnic groups in New Zealand (Samoa, Cook Islands and Tonga).

[PUBH 202 Health Promotion](#)

Introduces health promotion principles, practice and evidence through such strategies as education, community development and healthy public policy, with particular relevance to promoting the health of New Zealand adolescents and young adults.

[PUBH 204 Hauora Māori Challenges and Opportunities](#)

An introduction to Māori public health, exploring the nature and extent of the Māori population, determinants of Māori health outcomes, Māori health inequities and initiatives to address these.

[SPEX 206 Te Pū o te Ora: Māori Physical Education and Health](#)

An introduction to Māori understandings of physical education and health, comprised of four components: Māori worldview; Treaty of Waitangi; Kaupapa Māori; Applications. This course has a compulsory 'Noho' marae (stayover) experience.

New Zealand/Pacific-focused courses in Business

[BSNS 111 Business and Society](#)

Introduction to the business environment of New Zealand, including important defining characteristics, social and environmental implications of business decisions, and an appreciation of bi- and multi-cultural frameworks as they affect business.

[MANT 222 Interpersonal/International Business Communication](#)

A need to be aware of self, aware of others and to understand international New Zealand business at home or overseas is explored. Theory and practice are contextualised internationally. In line with the growing demand for graduates to be able to demonstrate attributes like communication competence, critical thinking and lifelong learning skills, this paper is designed to increase students understanding of capabilities in communicating in interpersonal, international and intercultural situations.

[MANT 332 International Management](#)

A theoretical framework for understanding the major organisations, processes and developments in the global environment and how these affect New Zealanders and our business organisations. Although grounded in theory, the practical implications of decision making for international management form the core of this paper.

[TOUR 101 Introduction to Tourism](#)

In New Zealand, tourism has been a \$40 billion industry that has generated 9% of GDP. This paper provides students with critical understandings of the principles that structure tourism and the nature and operation of tourism businesses in New Zealand and globally, and the impact, development and management issues that arise from tourism.

New Zealand/Pacific-focused courses in Science

ENVI 211 Environmental History of New Zealand

This paper examines the environmental history of New Zealand, with specific focus on the interaction between humans and their environment that has occurred since the arrival of humans about 800 years ago. Embeds both colonial and indigenous perspectives of the environment, and how our shifting gaze and values of “nature” have changed over time, and how these ideals are codified in law.

GEOG 397 Environmental Management: Policy and Practice

Responses of societies to environmental problems, with emphasis on environmental management policy and practice in New Zealand. This paper provides an understanding of environmental management law, policy and process in New Zealand.

GEOG 112 Dynamic Earth: A New Zealand Perspective

A broad overview of plate tectonics, Earth structure and natural hazards is followed by lectures on Earth materials, resources and the geological history of Zealandia, Earth's youngest most active continent. Throughout the paper, emphasis is placed on examples from New Zealand. Fieldtrips are used to explore local geology and reinforce concepts from class.

GEOG 265 Natural Hazards of NZ and Beyond

Investigate the physical basis, impact and mitigation of natural hazards associated with earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, mass movement, floods, severe storms and environmental change. Local field trips will be undertaken to observe natural hazards close to Dunedin.

GEOG 272 Evolution of New Zealand Biota

Evolution, extinction and other principles of paleontology; fossils, paleoecology and ancient environments; New Zealand Cenozoic fossils and stratigraphy. Evolution of NZ Biota as revealed by fossils (invertebrates, vertebrates, plants) and some living groups.

MARI 202 Ecology and Biology of Marine Invertebrates

Study of the biology, ecology and behaviour of marine invertebrates, with particular emphasis on New Zealand marine species and communities. Students explore adaptations of invertebrate groups to the marine environment in terms of comparative physiology and body architecture. Two field exercises related to zonation, community structure and population biology.



The information provided in this flyer is, as far as possible, up to date and accurate at the time of publication. Programme information is subject to change and is indicative for 2024. The University reserves the right to add, amend or withdraw courses and facilities, to restrict student numbers and to make any other alternations, as it may deem necessary. Published by the University of Otago International Office, June 2024