New Zealand’s Cultures: Independent and Inseparable
Gustavus Adolphus College IEX 2011

The Course
New Zealand is a nation dominated by two very different but interconnected cultures. The minority Maori population settled New Zealand (called “Aotearoa” in the Maori language) during the 13th century. Five hundred years later, European settlers arrived at the island. So began the long and complex relationship between the cultures of the native Maori and the “Pakeha,” the citizens of European descent. The two cultures have negotiated their historic tensions in interesting ways. We will learn from New Zealanders of all stripes how the two groups have forged a common national bond—and how well it is holding up!

The Experience
Our course focus provides a perfect opportunity to sample a wide range of New Zealand’s distinct cultural offerings. Here are a few examples of the destinations and encounters tentatively planned for the course.

History
- Te Papa National Museum
- Waitangi Treaty Site
- Art Deco architecture of Hastings & Napier
- Tamaki Village Maori Heritage Experience
- Sail the R. Tucker Thompson, 19th century-style schooner

Contemporary Culture
- Maori TV and radio broadcast facilities
- Agrodome Theme Park
- Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa Maori University

Natural Wonders
- Te Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley, including Pohutu geyser and mud pools
- Unique black sand beaches
- Mt. Taranaki and Egmont National park
- Rainbow Springs Nature Park and Kiwi House

Adventure
- Students must have approval of Center for International and Cultural Education to take part in NZ’s adventure tourism opportunities
- These include bungee jumping, sky diving, blackwater rafting, surfing, and others.

Tentative Itinerary
- Arrive NZ Jan 3
- Rotorua Jan. 3-8
- Napier Jan. 9-11
- Wellington Jan. 12-15
- Auckland Jan. 16-21
- Paihia Jan. 22-26
- Depart NZ Jan. 27

Cost
Estimated course fees will be $5300-$5700, depending on enrollment. Fees will cover airfare, coach transport, housing, tour costs and entrance fees, two meals daily, and administrative fees. Students should budget another $200-$500 for passport costs, additional meals, self-arranged tours and events, souvenirs, etc.

For more information: nz2011@gac.edu