

**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND:
NATIVE DECOLONIZATION IN THE PACIFIC RIM
THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE (FALL 2017, WINTER 2018, & SPRING 2018 QUARTERS)**

Native Decolonization in the Pacific Rim class at
Taheke Marae, in Rotorua, Aotearoa / New Zealand, 2011



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Credits: 16 (Fall), 16 (Winter) and 16 (Spring)
Fields of Study: American studies, Native American studies, cultural studies, geography, intl studies
Class Standing: Sophomore–Senior

Maori scholar Linda Tuhiwai Smith asserts, “Our communities, cultures, languages, and social practices—all may be spaces of marginalization, but they have also become spaces of resistance and hope.” In this program we will identify and contextualize these spaces and the politics of indigeneity and settler colonialism. We will use the Pacific Rim broadly as a geographic frame, with a

focus on the Pacific Northwest Native nations and the Maori in Aotearoa (New Zealand). By concentrating on a larger region, students will have an opportunity to broaden indigenous studies beyond the Lower 48 states and explore common processes of Native decolonization in different settler societies. A comparative study of the role of treaties in Washington state and New Zealand—in natural resources, governance, the arts, education, etc.—will provide a key framework for the program. We will study decolonization through cultural revitalization and sovereign jurisdiction of First Nations. In order to examine the central role of indigenous peoples in the region's cultural and environmental survival, we will use the lenses of geography, history, and literature.

In fall, our focus will be on familiarizing students with the concept of sovereignty, working with local Native nations, and preparing to travel to Aotearoa or elsewhere. The concept of sovereignty must be placed within a local, historical, cultural, and global context. Through theoretical readings and discussion, we will move from state-building in the U.S. and Canada to Native forms of nationalism. We will stress the complexities and intricacies of colonization and decolonization by concentrating on the First Nations of western Washington and British Columbia. We will later expand the focus to appreciate the similarities and differences of indigenous experiences in other areas of the Pacific Rim, such as Native Alaskans, Aboriginal peoples in Australia, and South Pacific island peoples. We will emphasize common Pacific Rim concerns such as climate change, tourism, and cultural domination.

For up to seven weeks spanning the last half of winter quarter and the beginning of spring quarter, many of us will travel to Aotearoa, where we will learn in a respectful and participatory way how the Maori have been engaged in revitalizing their language, art, land, and politics, and their still unfolding, changing relationships with the Pakeha (non-Maori) people and society. Alternatively, some students will continue their studies locally on the West Coast. Students will learn about the ongoing effects of colonization as well as gain a foundation in theories and practices of decolonization. We will take as our basic premise in this program that those wishing to know about the history of a particular Native group should study it with a purpose to be in solidarity with these people today.

Students will develop skills as writers and researchers by studying scholarly and imaginative works, by conducting policy research and fieldwork with Native and non-Native communities, and by comparing community and government relationships in the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand. Students will be expected to integrate extensive readings, lecture notes, films, interviews, and other sources in writing assignments.

Class schedule: *Tuesday* 9:30-12:30, 1:30-3:30; *Wednesday* 9:30-12:30; *Thursday* 9:30-12:30, 1:30-3:00

Reports of past class visits to Aotearoa New Zealand:

2011: <http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/NZ.pdf>
2015: <http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/NZ2015.pdf>