BIOL 374: Natural History of New Zealand
Winter Break 2019-2020

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Horton (and Dr. Oğuz Erdur)

Course Objectives
This course is designed to serve as an Integrative elective in the Biology Department. The overall objective of this course is to introduce you to the unique flora and fauna of New Zealand and to discuss the biogeographical mechanisms that have led to this flora and fauna. We will travel to many different ecosystems and discuss ongoing processes (e.g. glacial retreat, volcanism) that influence the natural world in New Zealand.

Required Text: There is no required text. Readings will be provided from primary literature and passages from this text:


Course Assignments and Grading (650 total points)
1. Journal (200 pts). We expect you to keep a journal with daily entries describing what you have seen and learned about the natural systems of New Zealand.
2. In Country Assignments (150 pts). These will include short writing assignments that will be based on things that we observe and data we collect on our trip. More detail will be given with each specific assignment.
3. Research and Reflection Paper (200 pts). This paper is an opportunity to delve deeper into some phenomenon that you observed on the trip. You should do some additional research to supplement your personal observations. Your topic must be approved by your instructor. I expect these papers to be 7 – 10 pages with at least eight sources from the primary literature.
4. Final Exam (100 pts). This exam will test you on the things we observed, the underlying biogeographical processes that led to the development of the species we observed and where we observed them.