**Earth Science Issue 1, Option 1: The New Continent of Zealandia**

***ESI 1 is due in the Brightspace assignment folder before class on Feb 9***

In the spring of 2017, a group of geologists proposed that another continent should be added to the traditional list: Zealandia, which includes New Zealand and much of the crust in the oceans surrounding it. If you choose this ESI option, you will learn about this new classification, what it means to be a continent, and the process scientists go through to debate new proposals like these.

For all ESI assignments, your response should include **three parts**. The **first part** should be a brief summary of this event/issue (with two creditable sources cited), the **second part** should focus on the **three questions** listed below (with at least two creditable sources), and the **third part** should be a personal response describing how your understanding of the science has impacted your perspective of this issue. Note that this last part is not just a statement of your perspective, but a reflection on how knowing the background science affects your perspective.

**Questions:**

(1) What key characteristics do geologists use to determine if a region of crust is a continent?

(2) In what ways is the proposed continent of Zealandia different from other continents, such that some geologists might not classify it as a continent?

(3) How do Zealandia’s unique characteristics tell us about its history of development?

**Format for all ESI assignments:**

* 12 point, Times New Roman font
* Double spaced, no extra lines between paragraphs
* 1-2 pages
* Assignment should begin on first line of page 1
* Put name, date, course assignment in the header, single spaced, (as shown on this document).
* There should be no direct quotations in your response.
* Citations should be in APA format, with parenthetical in-text citations (author, date) and a reference list at the end. Reference list does not count toward your page limit. This website shows how to follow this citation style, which is commonly used in the sciences. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/>

**Grading Rubric:**

30 pts - Included everything in the assignment (three parts, answered all questions, formatted correctly, citations/references included, proper length)

30 pts - Content was complete and correct

30 pts - Response is clear and coherent (this means it has to be well written, proofread, etc.)

10 pts - Response was particularly thoughtful and/or creative