

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 204

Modern Anthropological Thought

Course Outline

CRN 271 : 22 POINTS : TRIM 1, 2009
(2 March – 5 June)

COURSE COORDINATOR: A/PROFESSOR JEFF SISSONS

Room 1017, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 6131

Email: Jeff.Sissons@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: MON & THUR 9-10AM: MURPHY LT 101

ANTH 204: Modern Anthropological Thought

COURSE COORDINATOR: A/Prof. Jeff Sissons
Murphy Building, MY 1017
Tel: 463 6131
Email: jeff.sissons@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

LECTURES: Monday & Thursday 9-10am
in Murphy LT101

TUTORIAL: You will be asked to sign up for a tutorial during the first week of classes. Tutorials begin in the second week.
You are required to attend one tutorial per week.

Information not included in this outline will be provided in class.

COURSE CONTENT

This course engages critically with contemporary thought in the discipline of cultural anthropology. Two main currents in modern anthropological thought are explored and contrasted: cultural anthropology as the interpretation of particular cultures and cultural anthropology as a generalising science. Both contribute to a comparative understanding of human culture, the symbolic dimension of social life. Interpretive writings have been strongly influenced by the work of Clifford Geertz and theorists concerned with the nature and significance of ethnography. Generalising approaches have taken diverse forms including structuralism, phenomenology and evolutionism. In the first four weeks of the course we will consider anthropological interpretation, including some moral and political issues this raises, and in the remainder of the course we will consider how cultural anthropology might develop as a generalising science of human culture.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will have gained a deeper understanding of some central currents within contemporary anthropological thought. They will also have developed a greater ability to critically analyse anthropological writing in general and to think about human society and culture in more theoretically informed ways.

The forms of assessment will assist in achieving the aims and objectives outlined above and to develop particular study skills.

- The essays are designed to enhance general research and analytical skills in social anthropology and to enhance writing skills generally.
- The in-class test is designed to measure how well the readings and lectures for this course have been understood.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

There will be two essays and one in-class test. The weightings are as follows:

First Essay: 2000 words **30% of final grade**

Due: 4pm on Monday, 30 March

Second Essay: 2500 words **40% of final grade**

Due: 4pm on Monday, 18 May

In Class Test: **30% of final grade**

Thursday, 28 May, 9am during class time

Essay Topics will be handed out in class.

You will also be required to make one tutorial presentation. This will not be assessed.

ASSIGNMENT BOX

Assignments must be placed in the Assignment Box on level 9 of Murphy Building. They must not be placed in individual staff pigeon-holes, or under staff doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. This is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted, and to avoid problems which have arisen in the past, when work has gone missing. At 4pm the box will be emptied, the assignments date-stamped and recorded before handing to the appropriate markers.

STUDENTS MUST KEEP A PHOTOCOPY OF EVERY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT.

Unless students have followed these procedures the Programme will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

All written work submitted for assessment in Sociology and Social Policy courses must have a School Assignment Cover sheet. A sample is to be found at the back of this Course Outline. Further copies can be located on the reception counter at the Administration Office and on the Assignment Box, on level 9 of Murphy building. You may wish to have a front sheet of your own, but a School Cover sheet must be used. This is critical for accurate identification and recording of your work.

STUDY MATERIAL

All required readings are included in the student notes which are available from Student Notes Centre at approx \$30

WORKLOAD

It is recommended that on average students should spend 18 hours per week for a course this level, including lectures and tutorials.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENT

- Students must attend 7 out of 10 tutorials.
- One tutorial presentation is required.
- Assignments must be handed in by the dates indicated.

PENALTIES

Penalties will apply for lateness in presenting assignments. Unless an extension has been approved before hand or a medical certificate is later presented 5% will be deducted from the marks for each day that the assignment is late (counting that piece of work as 100%).

LECTURES AND READINGS

Weeks 1-2 Playing and Fighting with Geertz

Geertz, C. 1971. 'Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight', in his *Myth, Symbol and Culture*, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Geertz, C. 1973. 'Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture' in his *The Interpretation of Cultures*, N.Y., Fontana.

Shankman, P. 1984. 'The Thick and the Thin: On the Interpretive Theoretical Paradigm of Clifford Geertz', *Current Anthropology* 25(3): 261-280.

Abu-Lughod, L. 1991. 'Writing Against Culture', in Fox, R. (ed), *Recapturing Anthropology*, Sanata Fe, School of American Research Press.

Panourgia, N. 2002, Interview with Clifford Geertz' *Anthropological Theory* 2 (4): 421-431

Week 3 National and Transnational Cultures

Fox, K. 2004. 'Home Rules', from her *Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour*, London, Hodder; 111-137

Appadurai, A. 1996, 'Global Ethnoscapes: Notes and Queries for a Transnational Anthropology', in his *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalisation*, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.

Week 4 Ethnography and Morality

D'Andrade, R. 1995. 'Moral Models in Anthropology' *Current Anthropology* 36(3): 399-408.

Scheper-Hughes, N., 1995. 'The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology' [with commentaries on this and D'Andrade] *Current Anthropology* 36(3): 409-440

Week 5 Levi-Strauss and Structuralism

Descola, P. 2005. 'On Anthropological Knowledge', *Social Anthropology*, 13 (1): 65-73.

Gardner, H. 1973. 'Levi-Strauss' in his *Quest for the Human Mind: Piaget, Levi-Strauss and the Structuralist Movement*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Sahlins, M. 1976 (1990) 'Food as Symbolic Code' in J Alexander and S Seidmann (eds) *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*, Cambridge, CUP.

Week 6 Structures in History

Kuper, A. 1999. 'Marshall Sahlins: History as Culture' in his *Culture: The Anthropologists Account*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press.

Sahlins, M. 2000. 'Goodbye to Triste Tropes: Ethnography in the Context of Modern World History', in his *Culture in Practice: Selected Essays*, N.Y. Zone Books.

Sahlins, M. 1999. 'What is Anthropological Enlightenment? Some Lessons from the Twentieth Century'. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28: i-xxiii

Week 7 Bourdieu

Bourdieu, P. 1990. 'Appendix: The Kabyle House or the World Reversed' in his *The Logic of Practice*, Stanford, Stanford University Press.

Moore, J.D. 2009, Pierre Bordieu' in his *Vision of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*, Lanham Altamira Press, p. 325-342

Week 8 Phenomenological Approaches

Gell, A. 1999. 'The Technology of Enchantment and the Enchantment of Technology' in his *The Art of Anthropology*, London, The Athlone Press.

Jackson, M. 2005. 'The Space of Appearances' in his *Existential Anthropology: Events, Exigencies and Effects*, New York Berghahn Books, p. 15-33

Week 9 Foucault

Rabinow, P. (ed), 1984. 'Introduction' in his *The Foucault Reader*, London, Penguin. ISBN 0-14-055210-3, p 3-29

Foucault, M. 1980. 'The Eye of Power' in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977* Edited by C. Gordon, NY Pantheon. ISBN 0-394-73954-x; p 146-165

Week 10 **Evolutionary Approaches**

Bloch, M. 2005. 'Where did Anthropology Go? Or the Need for Human Nature' in his *Essays on Cultural Transmission*, Oxford, Berg.

Bloch, M. 2002. 'Are Religious Beliefs Counter-Intuitive?' in N. Frankenberry (ed), *Radical Interpretation in Religion*, Chapter7, Cambridge, CUP.

Wilson, P. 1988. 'Attending to Assumptions' in his *The Domestication of the Human Species*, New Haven, Yale, ISBN 0-300-0243-4, pp. 7-22

Week 11 **Society and Culture Reconsidered**

Kuper, A. 1994. 'The Origin of Society' in his *The Chosen Primate: Human Nature and Cultural Diversity*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press.

Bloch, M. 1992. 'What Goes Without Saying : The Conceptualisation of Zafimaniry Society', in Kuper, A. (ed), *Conceptualizing Society*, London, Routledge.

Borofsky, R. et.al. 2001. 'When: A Conversation about Culture', *American Anthropologist* 103(2): 432-446.

TUTORIAL READINGS

Week 1	No Tutorial
Week 2	Abu-Lughod, L., 1991. 'Writing Against Culture'
Week 3	Fox, K. 2004. 'Home Rules'
Week 4	Scheper-Hughes, N. 'The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology' [With commentaries on this and D'Andrade]
Week 5	Sahlins, M. 'Food as Symbolic Code'
Week 6	Sahlins, M. 1999. 'What is Anthropological Enlightenment? Some Lessons from the Twentieth Century'
Week 7	Bourdieu, P. 1990. 'Appendix: The Kabyle House or the World Reversed'
Week 8	Jackson, M., 2005. 'The Space of Appearances'
Week 9	Foucault, M., 1980. 'The Eye of Power'
Week 10	Bloch, M. 2005. 'Where did Anthropology Go? Or the Need for Human Nature'.
Week 11	Kuper A., 1994. 'The origin of Society'
Week 12	No Tutorial

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School: Assoc. Professor Jenny Neale, MY1013
Tel: 463 5827 E-m: Jenny.Neale@vuw.ac.nz

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023
Tel: 463 6132 E-m: Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Jan - June: Dr David Pearson, MY1020
Tel: 463 6131 E-m: Deavid/Pearson@vuw.ac.nz
Jul - Dec: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101
Tel: 463 5432 E-m: Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120
Tel: 463 9980 E-m: Russil.Durrant@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: Carol Hogan, MY918
Tel: 463 6546 E-m: Carol.Hogan@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Monica Lichti, Alison Melling
MY921, Tel: 463 5317, 463 5258
E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

Office use only

Date Received: _____

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

Full Name: _____
(Last name) *(First name)*

Student ID: _____ Course (eg ANTH101): _____

Tutorial Day: _____ Tutorial Time: _____

Tutor's name: _____

Assignment Due Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

