

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON  
*Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

*Te Kura Mahinga Tangata*

Anthropology

Terms 1 + 2, 2009 (2 March – 16 October)

**ANTH 411: Topics in Social and Cultural Anthropology**

**Inequality and Identity**

(CRN 4916 : 30 POINTS)

**Coordinator:** Dr. Diane O'Rourke *phone:* 463-5264 (ext 5264)  
Murphy 1008 *e-mail:* [diane.orourke@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:diane.orourke@vuw.ac.nz)

**Seminars:** Mon 10-1 MY 403

On the average we meet 2 hours in this period, normally from 10-12.  
Please save the 10-1 block, however, as we may need it for films, etc.

**Assessment:** 100% internal (see below for dates)

- 1 essay on ethnography & explanation 20% (1200-1500 words)
- 1 research project 50% (topic statement, proposal, essay of 3000-5000 words)
- 1 seminar presentation & essay 30% (1200-1500 words & seminar presentation)

**Aims and Content:** This course will explore the relationships between unequal access to economic, political and cultural resources and the construction of identities, both individual and societal. We will examine the construction of inequality and the role it plays in contemporary life, focussing on the mutually constitutive relationship between inequality and identity.

We will begin by looking very briefly at

- class: classic models of Marx and Weber, challenges to those models, contemporary anthropological approaches to class relations.
- some foundational ideas re identity including the notion of the self, the difference between 'person' and 'individual', and performance of identity. As a specific form of identity we will look briefly at ethnicity/nationality/culture.
- consideration of objective and subjective sides of inequality

Guided by the interests of the seminar members and my own list of essential issues, we will expand our enquiry to topics such as other forms and bases of inequality; the effects of globalisation and post-Fordist capitalism; structural violence; disability as identity and/or inequality; deafness as identity vs disability; identity politics; theoretical approaches to the formation of identity; the roles of inequality and identity in contemporary conflicts; impacts of aid and development assistance on identity. These topics will be covered by a combination of student

seminar presentations, regular seminars where I have set reading, and short lectures by me. A draft list of weekly seminar topics is given below.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, you are expected to

- achieve an understanding of the range of topics set out above,
- master the topics chosen for your seminar and project, and
- further develop your skills in the following areas:
  - bibliographic research
  - formulation and completion of a library research project
  - oral presentation of ideas
  - planning and leading a small class discussion

**Readings:** These will be arranged throughout the year. For material to be photocopied, masters will be placed in Anthropology Honours box in SACS office, Level 9 Murphy. Other material will be available directly from the internet or via Blackboard. While there are no texts required for purchase, we will be reading *In Search of Respect* by Philippe Bourgois as a class and you will find it useful to purchase your own copy.

**Coursework:** (Further details of the coursework will be discussed in seminars.)

Essay 1: the interface of theory and ethnography essay due 18 May 20 marks

An essay of 1200-1500 words taking as its starting point an ethnography focussing on inequality and identity. Related to this, students are asked to prepare and circulate to the group a 1 page summary of key points and issues in the ethnography they read, which will serve as a basis for discussion on 4 & 11 May. The 1 page summary is due Monday 27 April in seminar. You need to bring 2 possible ethnographies to class on 16 March and have your final choice approved by 30 March. We will discuss the differences in presentation for oral/written summary and analytic essay—remind me.

Research Project 50 marks

This project will be developed in several stages. Comments will be given on intermediate stages but the grade will be based on the final result, with consideration of ability to develop the analysis based on feedback from course coordinator and classmates. Tentative milestones and due dates are:

- topic statement, due Monday 25 May
- proposal, due Monday 27 July
- discussion of your developing analysis throughout the final segment of the course
- final essay, due Friday 16 October c. 3000-5000 words

Seminar presentation: concepts and models 30 marks

Students will select and research one of the concepts or issues concerning inequality &/or identity on the list created by the group. They will, in consultation with me, create a class presentation, select a reading, and lead a discussion on their topic. An essay of 1200-1500 words analysing some issue relevant to the subject will be due in hardcopy and Turnitin the Monday of the week after their seminar. Topic and date of presentation to be selected by 27 April.

### Seminars

Seminar discussion is the primary form of learning in this course, in addition to your own reading and reflection. Although no formal number of required

seminars has been set, all students are expected to attend every seminar short of illness and emergency. Missing class to do work for other classes isn't done at Honours. And because we are a group working together as a team, if you will miss a class or be late, you are expected to notify the rest of the group in a timely fashion.

### **Administrative Matters:**

**Office hours:** Monday 1-2 and Wednesday 11-12. I will also be available for 411 students between the end of our seminar and 1 pm when we finish before 1. or e-mail or text to make an appointment.

**Additional information:** Any additions or changes to this outline will be discussed in seminars.

**Using Turnitin:** (see below for the full VUW statement on Turnitin)

All essays and the proposal for your research project must be submitted to Turnitin as well as in hard copy and will not be marked until both submissions have been made. Turnitin is a computer package which, among other features, compares submitted essays to material available on the web and to previously submitted essays. Go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), click on 'create a user profile' in the upper right corner. Note that you will need to remember your password in order to submit subsequent essays.

After creating an account, you can log in with your ID and password as with an e-mail account. Use the class ID and enrolment password to enrol in ANTH411-09.

Class ID: 2618483

Enrolment password: inequality

**Submitting Assignments:** Except as otherwise noted, your assignments should be submitted to the SSCS Assignment Box on level 9, Murphy. You must attach a school cover sheet when submitting via the Assignment Box. These can be found on Blackboard and at the school office.

**Referencing:** All written work must be properly referenced using the standard anthropological format, which employs in-line citations and a complete bibliography. A copy of the Anthropology Style Guide will be available on Blackboard. Inadequately referenced work will be returned for correction and resubmission.

**Extensions:** Extensions are possible for your essays and the written stages of your research project. You do not need a major justification for a short extension, but you must contact me before the event. If you need an additional extension, contact me again. For longer extensions you must present written justification (medical, death, etc). No extensions are possible for scheduled oral presentations.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements:**

- give all seminar presentations on the assigned days;
- submit all essays and your proposal in both hard copy and via Turnitin.

**Workload:** Coursework for ANTH 411 is planned to meet the VUW guidelines of 10 hours per points, ie, 300 hours over the year for a full year honours course. It is helpful to think of this as 10 hours per week plus 60 hours in other periods (ie, what we erroneously call breaks—think back to Whorf on 'empty' barrels!).

### **Penalties:**

a. Work containing plagiarism will not be accepted for completion of assignments. It may also

lead to further penalties up to and including suspension from the university (see below). Please note that Turnitin checks for plagiarism by comparing your submitted work with material available on the internet and a database of previously submitted essays.

- b. Work is not normally accepted after the listed due date or approved extension. *If you can't meet a deadline, contact me by the deadline.* **If** work is accepted late without prior approval you will be penalised 5% of the value of the assignment per day, unless a doctor's certificate or equivalent shows that you were unable **both** to complete the work **and** to contact me prior to the latest approved deadline.

### **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>

Turnitin: Student work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## **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.

## DRAFT ANTH 411-09 Seminar schedule

Week 1	2 Mar	introduction: inequalities, identities
Week 2	9 Mar	basics of class
Week 3	16 Mar	basics of identity [bring 2 possible ethnographies to class]
Week 4	23 Mar	objective and subjective sides of inequality & identity
Week 5	30 Mar	tba [Must have choice of ethnography approved.]
Week 6	6 Apr	discussion of Bourgois, In Search of Respect

break 11-26 April

Week 7	27 Apr	tba [Seminar topic must be set.]
Week 8	4 May	discussion of ethnographies
Week 9	11 May	discussion of ethnographies
Week 10	18 May	tba [theory/ethnography essay due]
Week 11	25 May	tba [Research Project topic statement due.]
Week 12	1 June	class in weeks 12-18 will be devoted to your seminars

mid year break

Week 13	13 July	“
Week 14	20 July	“
Week 15	27 July	“ [Research Project proposal due.]
Week 16	3 Aug	“
Week 17	10 Aug	“
Week 18	17 Aug	“

break 22 Aug – 6 Sept

Week 19	7 Sept	This ¼ of the course will be devoted to your research projects.
Week 20	14 Sept	Seminars will focus on
Week 22	21 Sept	- discussion of how to carry out analysis, synthesis and write up
Week 21	28 Sept	- research & writing processes
Week 23	5 Oct	- students presenting their progress on their research projects
Week 24	12 Oct	

Research project essay due Friday 16 October