

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
*Te Kura Mahinga Tangata*  
**Cultural Anthropology**

**ANTH 209: Conflict and Reconciliation**  
**(CRN 274 : 20 POINTS)**

Trimester 1, 2010  
Teaching dates: 1 March to 4 June 2010  
Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010  
Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010  
Examination/Assessment Period: 11 June to 4 July 2010

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

**Tutor:** Ryan O'Byrne  
Murphy 1105 *e-mail:* elbuzzardo@gmail.com

**Lectures:** Monday 4-5 pm HU LT 220  
Wednesday 4-5 pm HU LT 119

**Film Viewing:** Wednesday [optional] 5-7:30pm HU LT 119

**Workshops:** One 50 minute workshop (aka tutorial), times tba in 1<sup>st</sup> lecture

**Assessment:** 100% internal assessment

**Course Aims:**

In this course we aim to reach an anthropological understanding of contemporary armed conflicts, particularly those which are frequently blamed on ethnicity or culture, and those termed genocide. The argument we will examine is that ethnicity is not the cause of these conflicts, but rather an idiom used to wage or dismiss conflicts—predominantly in the 'third world'—whose basis lies in economic and political structures.

**Learning Objectives:** On successfully completing this course you should:

1. understand approaches to conflict and its resolution used by anthropologists;
2. be able to use these concepts and methods to examine contemporary issues;
3. be able to understand and develop models of conflict & reconciliation situations;
4. have developed skills in critical reading, clear oral and written presentation of ideas, and formulation and support of arguments.

**COURSE STRUCTURE, DELIVERY and ASSESSMENT**

## Assignments and deadlines

Essay 1 (1200-1500 words)	30% of grade	29 March	Monday, start of class
Research topic approval form	required		no later than Weds 28 April
Final test	30% of grade	2 June	Wednesday, in class
Research essay (c. 2000 wds)	40% of grade	11 June	Friday, in Box, Murphy level 9

**Readings:** ANTH 209-2010 Course Notes are available from Student Notes, \$28.70.

*For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.*

*Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.*

*Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.*

## Course Content:

We will consider conditions which lead to and perpetuate this type of conflict and the varied processes for its resolution, from story-telling, rituals, and traditional courts to truth and reconciliation commissions and formal tribunals. The study lets us use models and concepts such as identity and identity politics, state and civil society, nationalism, commoditization, discourse and world view, and consider a range of factors from economic inequality and political succession to symbolism and representation. In looking at both the violence and the resolutions, we will be able to consider the intersection of local and global elements. Colonialism and globalization will be considered as contexts, rather than as causes in themselves.

Rwanda and Bosnia will be our main cases. Both occurred in the early 1990s, both were widely attributed to ‘primordial’ ethnic divisions, both resulted in genocide, and both have been followed by internal war crimes tribunals. International—and personal—responses to European Bosnia and African Rwanda differed, and looking at these differences will also tell us something about how identity and difference are constructed. Additional case studies will be drawn primarily from Africa to give some commonality in situational factors, and because that is where my own interests lie.

## Topic Outline:

Weeks are numbered consecutively (date in parentheses = Monday lecture).

Workshops are identified by their week number. The first workshop will be the Week 2 Workshop.

Week 1	(1/3)	Introduction: Culture, Civil War, & Genocide	[no workshops]
Week 2	(8/3)	Models for Studying Civil Wars & Genocide	
Week 3	(15/3)	Difference: Nation, Culture, Ethnicity	
Week 4	(22/3)	Politics, Order, & Power: The State & Civil Society	
Week 5	(29/3)	Economics, Inequality, & Bases of Conflict	[no workshops]

*essay due in class Mon*

Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010

Week 6	(19/4)	Living in a War Zone	
Week 7	(26/4)	Explaining Civil War: Back to the Blind Men & the Elephant	
		<i>topic approval by Weds</i>	
Week 8	(3/5)	Displacement, Refugees, & Effects on Society	
Week 9	(10/5)	Creating Peace	
Week 10	(17/5)	Legal Resolutions: Harmony or Justice? Reconciliation or Retribution?	
Week 11	(24/5)	Reconstructing a Way of Life	
Week 12	(31/5)	Roles for Anthropology	<i>test on Weds</i> [no workshops]
	11/6	<i>research essay due</i>	

### **Course Delivery & Assessment:**

Lectures, readings and workshops cover different but related material and to get the full benefit of the course, a student needs to devote energy to all three on a regular basis. Assessment is based on a variety of tasks to allow consideration of different strengths and learning styles.

**Workshops:** Participation in workshops is an essential part of this course because this is the best way to test your understanding of the readings and to learn to present your ideas and support your arguments clearly (Obj 4). Through co-operative exploration in workshops we will explore the relevance of the anthropological approaches to understanding conflict and resolutions (Obj 1, 2). We are using a workshop (vs tutorial) format this year to work in groups to identify models in our readings and construct our own models about conflict situations (Obj 3). Attendance at at least 6 of the 9 workshops is a requirement for passing ANTH 209.

**Weekly Study Guides** will be handed out in the week preceding the assignment and available on Blackboard. These will give requirements regarding readings, questions for discussion, suggestions for focus in doing the readings, and information on the week's film.

**Readings:** Jointly we will read a selection of articles and excerpts from books. Ideally readings should be completed by the Monday lecture of the relevant week. Please **read all required readings before your workshop** to let you ask for explanation where necessary, participate in the discussion, try out your ideas on the topic, and generally understand what the heck is going on. **Please bring course notes to workshop.** In doing the readings, you should attempt to identify the central goals, assumptions, and theoretical leanings of each author. You should also try to make relations and comparisons between readings, ethnographic contexts, and different theoretical approaches. You aren't expected to enter the class knowing how to do this and no one is expected to be right about their analysis every time. In most cases there is no single "right" answer. You are expected to try, and to improve your abilities throughout the course. Note that not all items in your Course notes are required—see the Weekly Study Guides for details.

**Essay 1: identifying models** For this assignment you are asked to work with articles to identify, analyse, and discuss the authors' models and present a claim based on your analysis in an essay of 1200-1500 words, (30 marks) (focus= Obj 3; Obj 1, 4). The articles to be used are contained in your course notes. A sheet with details, including which articles may be chosen for the analysis, will be distributed in the second week of class. We will practice aspects of analysing articles in our workshops. The essay is due Monday 29 March at start of class with a 209 Cover Sheet attached and all questions on that sheet answered in the affirmative. The essay must also be submitted via Turnitin (see 'Using Turnitin' under Administrative Matters). Extensions may be given if you attend that Monday lecture (and, of course, for illness, etc).

**Research Essay & topic approval:** For this assignment you are asked to select a topic related to this course to research in more depth. The project needs to bring together models and ethnographic situations and is a way of putting academic knowledge to work in examining contemporary issues (Obj 2). Before beginning in-depth research you need to complete a Topic Approval Form and have it signed by your tutor (Ryan); the last date for doing this is

Wednesday 29 April. Your research should include the reading/review of items in your Course Notes relevant to your topic, as well as additional sources from the library and internet. You are then to demonstrate your understanding of your subject by formulating and writing up an argument about some aspect of it. This final argument may be comparative in nature or may use a single case to explore some aspect of the topic holistically and deeply. To do well in this assignment, you need to bring in all the course objectives. The essay should be approximately 2000 words long, well organised and properly documented; it is due by 4 pm Friday 11 June, in the SACS Assignment Box on Level 9 Murphy. Use the ANTH 209 Cover Sheet. It must also be submitted via Turnitin. An information sheet on this assignment will be provided.

**Film Series:** There will be a film viewing session after the Wednesday lecture. In the past we have found these film series to be a great way to build a sense of community (over snacks and drink) as well as to gain a more holistic understanding of the situations and issues we studied. Attendance is optional and most of the items viewed will be available in the library AV section for individual use. A few AV items are required work and we will normally view at least the first part of these in the lecture period. The weekly study guides will point out which items are required viewing. While only those items will be covered directly on the test, other films will be useful in providing the examples necessary for strong answers.

**Final Test:** The test will be given in class on Wednesday 2 June (30 marks) covering all assigned readings, material presented in lecture and workshop, and any required audio-visual materials. To do well you will need proficiency with both theory and ethnography and be able to relate the two. An information sheet will be provided. You must attend unless you have made a prior arrangement with me or can present a medical certificate. If you have two or more tests on this day, you may ask to take a make-up test instead.

**Class Party:** In the past few years we have celebrated after the test with a class party. This is such a great community building event that people have suggested doing it earlier in the term. We'll take a few minutes in class to see if there is a group happy to organize this.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Assignment Cover Sheets:** For both ANTH 209 essays you must use the ANTH 209 cover sheet (a copy is attached here and a printable version is available on Blackboard). Your essay will not be marked until you complete this cover sheet, answering all items in the affirmative. Do not use the generic SACS cover sheet.

### **Office hours:**

**Diane:** Wednesday 11-12 and Thursday 2-3. Or you can make an appointment—call (463-5264), leave a message, or catch me after class. Or e-mail me with questions or for an appointment. I look forward to talking with you outside class, so don't hesitate to contact me.

**Ryan:** tba

**Extensions:** Extensions are possible for the 2 essays, but you must contact us. To receive a short no questions asked extension for the first essay, you must attend the class in which it is due. If unable to attend the class in which work is due, or you need a further extension, you must notify Diane (models essay) or Ryan (research essay) before the event and present written justification (medical, death, etc).

### **Mandatory Course Requirements:**

- attend at least 6 of the 9 workshops
- have your research topic approved as set out above
- submit the Models Essay and the Research Essay in both hard copy and via Turnitin.

To sit the test you must be in class on Wednesday 2 June or present written justification (medical, death, etc) no later than Tuesday 8 June.

**Using Turnitin:** The Models Essay and the Research Essay must be submitted to Turnitin as well as in hard copy. Turnitin is a computer package which, among other features, compares submitted essays to material available on the web and to previously submitted essays. To use it, go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), click on 'create a user profile' in the upper right corner. 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 ANTH209-10.

Class ID: 3133385

Enrolment password: peace

When uploading submissions, be sure to click the final 'submit' button. If you have taken all the steps you will receive a notification/receipt.

**Additional information:** Any additions or changes to this outline will be announced in lectures and on Blackboard. Discussion of how to do assignments will not be posted, so if you miss a class you should check with other students. Weekly study guides and other handouts distributed in class will be available on Blackboard.

**Workload:** Coursework for ANTH 209 is planned to meet the university guideline of 10 hours/point as the time necessary to achieve an average pass, ie, for a 20-point course, 200 hours. For ANTH 209 this would include 24 hours in lectures and 9 hours in workshops and as a rough estimate: ~60 (4-5 x 12) weekly preparation & revision; 30 on 1<sup>st</sup> essay; 60 on research essay, and 15 test revision.

### **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 provides a check for plagiarism by comparing your submitted essays with material available on the internet and a database of previously submitted essays.

Also note that you should incorporate the ideas of others in your work but always properly referenced. In that case you will have made clear that the ideas in question are not your own. Please refer to the 209 Referencing Guide on Blackboard and the Anthropology Style Guide in your Course Notes for referencing format instructions.

b. Work is not normally accepted after the listed due date or approved extension. *If you can't meet a deadline, contact us by the deadline and attend class on the due date.* **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 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>

## **USE OF TURNITIN**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may 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>

The AVC(Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

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# School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

## ANTH 209

### Assignment Cover Sheet

*(please write legibly)*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutorial Day/time: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date (latest approved extension): \_\_\_\_\_

Mandatory checklist -- Have you done the following?

(your assignment will not be graded until you do)

Given your essay a title conveying your point?     *yes*     *no*

Used in-line citations & 209 style guide?  
(see Blackboard)     *yes*     *no*

Numbered your pages?     *yes*     *no*

Used 12 or 14 pt readable typeface?     *yes*     *no*

Stapled your essay in upper left corner only?     *yes*     *no*

Submitted your essay on Turnitin?     *yes*     *no*