

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

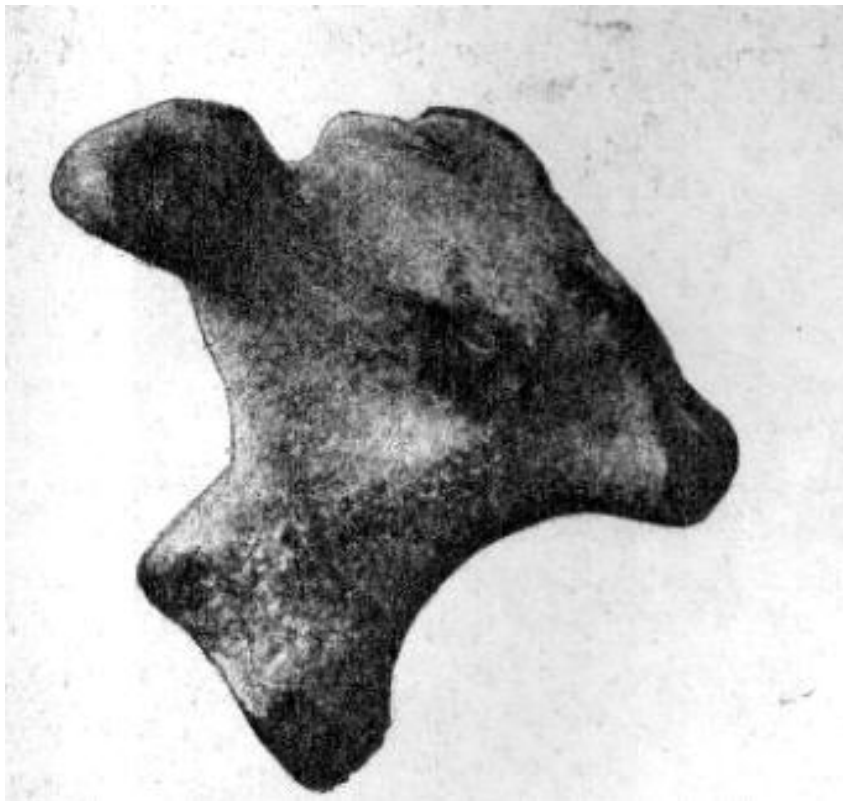
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 406

Special Topic: Materialising Society



Course Outline

ANTH 406
Special Topic: Materialising Society

CRN 283 : 30 Points : Trimester 1+2, 2009
(1 March – 15 October)

COURSE COORDINATOR: Dr Catherine Trundle
Level 10, Murphy Building, MY 1005
Tel: 04 463 5134
catherine.trundle@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 12-1, MY 1005

SEMINARS: Monday, 10am – 12 noon, MY531

COURSE CONTENT

One of the most exciting new developments in anthropology is a return to the study of material culture. But rather than understanding material culture as merely solid products of human agency and thought the new anthropology is interested in the ways in which it constructs and constrains human agency and thought.

We begin by exploring foundational texts in the study of material culture such as Marx, Mauss, Bourdieu and Foucault. We then address recent approaches to material objects and object-human relations that seek to critique philosophical and ontological distinctions between subjects and objects, the material and the conceptual, and nature and culture. By focusing on the agency of objects, such theories attempt to move beyond the representational and symbolic levels to the agentive, social and active qualities of objects. This course will critically evaluate such trends and also discuss the practical and methodological issues associated with ethnographically studying objects.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will help students develop skills in:

- Critical thinking and comprehension skills through reading advanced level theoretical texts.
- Synthesising ideas and applying them ethnographically at an advanced level.
- Leadership, presentation skills and the verbal expression of ideas.
- Developing a clear, creative and concise writing style.
- Effective time management.

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 14 October 2010

Mid-trimester break: 2 April to 18 April 2010

Mid-trimester break 21 August to 5 September

WORKLOADS

The workload of this course is approximately 12 hours a week, including seminar time and essay preparations.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information not included in this outline will be provided in class or through the boxes provided for communicating with Honours students in the Anthropology Programme in the Administration area, Level 9.

ASSESSMENT

This course consists of the following assessments:

<i>Seminar work</i>	<i>Weighting: 20%</i>
<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Weighting: 30%</i>
<i>Research Essay</i>	<i>Weighting: 50%</i>

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENT:

To meet mandatory course requirements students must submit all written assessments by the due dates.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

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

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:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Tel: 463 5676 E-m: Allison.Kirkman@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:	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, Heather Day MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677 E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

Office use only

Date Received:

(Date Stamp)

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

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: _____