



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 413

*Special Topic: Fun and Games:
Sociology of Play and Humour*

COURSE OUTLINE

CRN 7148: 30 Points: Full Year 2010

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 15 October 2010

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR MIKE LLOYD

Room 1015, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 5678

Email: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: THURSDAY 12–2PM: MY 402

COURSE COORDINATOR

Mike Lloyd
Murphy building, MY 1015
Tel: 04 463 5678
E-mail: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS

To be announced

CLASS TIME

Thursday 12–2pm MY402

COURSE CONTENT AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

If we pause to reflect upon the course of a typical day, it is abundantly clear that people like to laugh and play. Humour can be found just about anywhere, and there are also formally organised breaks from the serious realm, ie. we make space for 'play'. It is surprising then that sociology has not had more to say about humour and play. Very simply, this course aims to consider what has been said, how it relates to approaches from other disciplines, and what could be developed in the future. The course is very much open to the interests of the students taking it, and the approach will be exploratory and flexible, rather than proscriptive.

Learning Objectives:

- To begin sociological exploration of the many ways in which humans laugh and play
- To move beyond rigid distinctions between theory and method to consider the specific details of studies of play and laughter.

SOSC 413 COURSE PROGRAMME

March 4 Introductory session

March 11 – April 1 Progression through readings

Mid trimester break April 5 – 18

April 22 – June 3 Progression through readings

June 4 Assignment One due

Mid Year break June 7 - July 11

July 15 Assignment discussion; planning for remainder of course

October 14 Concluding session

October 22 Assignment Two due

COURSE WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

This course is worth 30 points and thus the workload expectation, including scheduled contact time, is 12 hours per week during teaching weeks. This workload is in accordance with the guidelines put forward by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for courses at the 400-level.

WEBSITE

The School's website is at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs> , on the same page you will also find *Sociolog*, <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/about/sociolog.aspx>, a chronicle of reflections written by Sociology, Social Policy, Social Science Research staff and postgraduate students

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information related to SOSC 413 will be communicated via Blackboard or e-mail.

ASSESSMENT

The course is totally internally assessed via two written assignments. Expectations for assignments will be discussed in class time and there will be ongoing discussion of student progress throughout the course.

Assignment One: Essay

Due date: 4 pm, Friday June 4

Recommended length: 4,000 words

Grade weight: 40%

Choose from **one** of the following topics:

1. 'Humour does not *give* offense; its recipients *take* offense' (Christie Davies, 2008: 6). Discuss.
2. 'It is easy to praise humour for bringing people together in moments of pure, creative enjoyment. But it is not those sorts of moments that constitute the social core of humour, but, instead, it is the darker, less easily admired practice of ridicule'. (Michael Billig, 2005: 2). Discuss.
3. 'My hypothesis is that a joke is seen and allowed when it offers a symbolic pattern of a social pattern occurring at the same time'. (Mary Douglas, 1968: 366). Discuss.
4. Your own essay topic (in consultation with the course coordinator).

Assignment Two: Project Work

Due date: 4pm, Friday, October 22
words

Recommended length: 6,000

Grade weight: 60%

A project/essay on a topic of your own choice. Any topic relevant to the sociology of play and humour. This should be discussed with the course coordinator before proceeding.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirements you must:

- Submit both assessment items by the due date and time.

RESOURCES

Given the small numbers taking the course no material has been placed on reserve. Reading material for the class sessions will be made available either as a photocopy or on the course Blackboard resource.

There are many websites providing humorous material, but in terms of academic discussion students should be aware of the following:

<http://www.hnu.edu/ishs/>

This is the website of the International Society for Humor Studies and it contains many useful links.

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/humourstudies/>

This is the website of the Australasian Humour Studies Network

ASSIGNMENT BOX

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy building by 4pm on the due date. They MUST NOT be placed in individual staff pigeon-holes, or under staff office 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 **4 p.m.** the box will be emptied, date-stamp work and record its receipt, before handing it to the appropriate markers.

Students Must Keep A Photocopy Of Every Written Assignment.

Unless students have followed this procedure, the Department will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

IDENTIFYING YOUR ESSAY OR ASSIGNMENT – FRONT SHEET

Please include the School's **Assignment Cover Sheet** (a sample of which can be found at the end of this Outline) as a front cover sheet when submitting your assignments. This ensures that you have provided essential information. You may wish to have a front page of your own on your assignment, but the cover sheet must be the School's Assignment Cover Sheet. Further copies can be found at the School's Administration office on level 9 of Murphy building, and also on the School's assignment box (level 9 Murphy, beside the lifts).

LATE PENALTIES

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e.

Mark out of maximum of day it is	Then deduct the following marks for each late
10	½
20	1
30	1½
40	2

Where the due date is a Friday, any written work not handed in by 4 p.m. will be liable to a two-day penalty. To be effective, this policy will be consistently applied in all courses.

GRADES

The Department of Sociology and Social Policy has decided to give letter grades for all internally assessed work instead of giving numerical marks. The following table sets out the range of marks within which each letter grade is assigned. Your final grade and marks for the course will be an aggregate of the grades you achieve during the course.

PASS: A+	85% or over	FAIL: D	40%-49%
A	80% – 84%	E	Below 40%
A-	75% – 79%		
B+	70% – 74%		
B	65% – 69%		
B-	60% – 64%		
C+	55% – 59%		
C	50% – 54%		

COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from SOSC 413 (or any other course) please check the Information on withdrawals and refunds at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Failure to do so may have consequences for enrolment, bursaries, allowances, loans, etc., i.e. you will get credited with a fail, not a withdrawal, on your record if you do not act promptly.

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:

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

Full Name: _____

Student ID: _____ Course (eg ANTH101): _____

Tutorial Day: _____ Tutorial Time: _____

Tutor (if applicable): _____

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: _____