

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: 20 POINTS: TRIMESTER 2, 2010

Teaching dates: 12 July to 15 October 2010

Study Week: 18 October to 21 October 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 22 October to 13 November 2010

COURSE COORDINATOR: A/PROF. JEFF SISSONS

Room 1017, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 6131

Email: Jeff.Sissons@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: MON & FRI 1 – 2PM: MY 632

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 and Friday 1 – 2pm in MY 632

TUTORIAL: Times and rooms to be confirmed during first lecture
You will be asked to sign up for a tutorial during the first week of classes. Tutorials begin in the second week.

COURSE CONTENT

This course explores inspiring and influential ideas in recent Anthropology by discussing the writings of some of the discipline's greatest thinkers. Among the topics considered are: symbolism and the interpretation of cultures; culture and globalisation; ethnography and morality; culture and history; culture and evolution; culture and power; culture and experience.

The course engages critically with contemporary thought in the discipline of cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropology has been defined in many ways, but for the purposes of this course it is defined as the comparative study of culture, the symbolic or meaningful dimension of social life. In Weeks 1 and 2 we consider the work of Clifford Geertz, who first narrowed down the definition of culture to 'webs of meaning', and discuss criticisms of his views. At about the same time that Geertz was redefining culture as meaning, others were approaching it as the logical product of the human mind (Week 3) or as meaningful logics operating in history (Week 4). More recently, culture has been approached as global flows rather than local meanings, although this approach has also come in for criticism (Week 5). In a context of global capitalism the interpretation of culture through ethnography is inevitably political (Week 6). Culture is being further understood as practices (Week 7) or as discourses tied to regimes of power/knowledge (Week 8). Others emphasise the ways that culture always directs and underpins experience (Week 9). We conclude the course by looking at some contemporary evolutionary approaches to culture (Weeks 10 and 11).

COURSE DELIVERY

ANTH 204 is taught in two 1-hour sessions and a 1-hour tutorial during week 2-11.

LEARNING 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 cultural 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.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

ANTH 204 will be internally assessed with two essays and an In Class Test. Essay topics will be handed out during lecture.

Essay One: word count of 2000 words **Weighting: 30% of final grade**
Due: 4pm, Monday 2 August

Essay Two: word count of 2500 words **Weighting: 40% of final grade**
Due: 4pm, Monday 4 October

In Class Test: **Weighting: 30% of final grade**
During lecture time 1-2pm, Friday, 15 October

You will also be required to make one tutorial presentation which will not be assessed but counts towards one of the mandatory course requirements to be fulfilled to pass this course.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

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

STUDY MATERIAL

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

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer. 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.

Students are able to order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to students or they can be picked up once notified. Opening hours are 8– 6pm, Monday – Friday during trimester and 8 – 5pm during trimester break, phone: 463 5515.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENT:

To gain a pass for ANTH 204 students are required to:

- submit Assignment One and Assignment Two on the due date
- sit the In Class Test
- attend 7 out of 10 tutorials
- give one tutorial presentation

COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from ANTH 204 (or any other course) please see the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences office on level 4 of Murphy Building for an Add/Drop Course form. Failure to do so may have consequences for enrolment, student grants, allowances, loans, etc., i.e. you will get credited with a fail, **not** a withdrawal on your record if you do not act promptly. Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be recruited in consultation with the class at the beginning of the course. The class representative's name and contact details will be available to the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA), the course coordinator and the class (on BlackBoard). The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information that is not included in this outline will be provided in class or made available on BlackBoard.

ASSIGNMENT BOX

Assignments must be placed in the Essay 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 Essay 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.

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 TUTORIAL READINGS

Weeks 1-2: Culture as Meaning: Playing and Fighting with Clifford Geertz

Geertz, C. 1971. 'Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight', in his *Myth, Symbol and Culture*, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. ISBN 0-393-04254-5

Geertz, C. 1973. 'Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture' in his *The Interpretation of Cultures*, N.Y., Fontana. ISBN 0-00-6862608

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. 0-933452-78-0

Dirks, N., 2004. 'Edward Said and Anthropology', *J. of Palestine Studies* 33(3): 38-54

No tutorial in week 1

Tutorial reading week 2

Abu-Lughod, L., 1991. 'Writing Against Culture'

Week 3: Culture as Structure: Claude Levi-Strauss and Structuralism

Descola, P. 2005. 'On Anthropological Knowledge', *Social Anthropology*, 13 (1): 65-73. ISSN 0-282-0400084-9.

Gardner, H. 1973. 'Levi-Strauss' in his *Quest for the Human Mind: Piaget, Levi-Strauss and the Structuralist Movement*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-28332-1

Tutorial reading week 3:

Descola, P. 'On Anthropological Knowledge'

Week 4: Culture in History: Marshall Sahlins

Sahlins, M. 2008. 'An Interview with Marshall Sahlins' *Anthropological Theory* 8(3) 319-328

Kuper, A. 1999. 'Marshall Sahlins: History as Culture' in his *Culture: The Anthropologists Account*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press. ISBN 0-674-00417-5

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. ISBN 0-942299-37-X

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

Tutorial reading week 4:

Sahlins, M. 2008. 'An Interview with Marshall Sahlins'

Week 5: Culture and Globalisation

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. 0-8166-2793-2

Hage, G, 2005. 'A Not So Multi-Sited Ethnography of a Not So Imagined Community' *Anthropological Theory*, 5(4): 463-475

Hirsch et.al. 2007, 'Anthropologists are Talking about Anthropology after Globalisation', *Ethnos* 72(1): 102-126

Tutorial reading week 5:

Hage, G. 2005. 'A Not so Multi-sited Ethnography of a Not so Imagined Community.'

Week 6: Cultural Relativism and Moral Ethnography

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

Brown, M, 2008. 'Cultural Relativism 2.0' *Current Anthropology* 49(3): 363-383

Tutorial reading week 6:

D'Andrade, R. 1995. 'Moral Models in Anthropology'

Week 7: Culture as Practice: Pierre Bourdieu

Moore, J.D. 2009, Pierre Bourdieu' in his *Vision of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*, Lanham Altamira Press, p. 325342

Bourdieu, P. 1990. 'Appendix: The Kabyle House or the World Reversed' in his *The Logic of Practice*, Stanford, Stanford University Press. ISBN 0-8047-2011-8

Tutorial reading week 7:

Bourdieu, P. 1990. 'Appendix: The Kabyle House or the World Reversed'

Week 8: Culture and Power: Michel Foucault

Abeles, M. 2009. 'Foucault and Political Anthropology', *International Social Science Journal*, 59, Issue 191: 58-68.

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

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

Tutorial reading week 8:

Abeles, M. 2009. 'Foucault and Political Anthropology'

Week 9: Culture and Experience: 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. 1533

Tutorial reading week 9:

Jackson, M., 2005. 'The Space of Appearances'

Week 10: Culture and Evolution

Bloch, M. 2005. 'Where did Anthropology Go? Or the Need for Human Nature' in his *Essays on Cultural Transmission*, Oxford, Berg. ISBN 1-84520-287-2

Bloch, M. 2008. 'Why Religion is nothing Special but is Central' *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, 363: 2055-2061.

Wilson, P. 1988. 'Attending to Assumptions' in his *The Domestication of the Human Species*, New Haven, Yale.

Scubla, L. 2002. 'Hocart and the Royal Road to Anthropological Understanding' *Social Anthropology* 10(3): 259-376

Tutorial reading week 10:

Scubla, L. 2002. 'Hocart and the Royal Road to Anthropological Understanding'

Week 11: Society and Culture Reconsidered

Bloch, M. 1992. 'What Goes Without Saying : The Conceptualisation of Zafimaniry Society', in Kuper, A. (ed), *Conceptualizing Society*, London, Routledge. ISBN 0-415-06124-5

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

Tutorial reading week 11:

No Set Reading: General Discussion

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