

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 312

*Representing Others: The
Challenges of Ethnography*

Course Outline

CRN 280: 20 POINTS: Trimester 1, 2011

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid trimester break: 18 April – 1 May 2011

Study/Examination period: 6 June to 2 July 2011

COURSE COORDINATOR: LORENA GIBSON

Room 1005, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 6747

E-mail: Lorena.Gibson@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: MON & WED 9 – 10 AM: MY LT 101

ANTH 312

Representing Others: The Challenges Of Ethnography

COURSE COORDINATOR:

Dr Lorena Gibson
Murphy Building, MY 1005
Phone: 463 6747
E-mail: Lorena.Gibson@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, 11am–12pm in MY 1005,
or by appointment

LECTURES:

Monday and Wednesday 9–10am, MY LT 101

TUTORIALS:

You will be asked to sign up for a tutorial during the first week of classes. Tutorials begin in the second week. Choose one of the following options:

Thursday, 12–1pm, EA 026

Thursday, 4–5pm, MY 107

COURSE CONTENT

Anthropologists believe that ethnography is a valid method of research although they recognise that fieldwork is a creative and contingent process. This course looks at the implications of contested methods and data and the significance this has for Anthropology.

Once in a while the faith of both the public and the anthropological community is shaken by claims that fieldworkers are manipulated and misinterpreted or even fabricate data. Recent allegations focus on the harmful effects anthropological research and writing has supposedly had on research subjects.

This course critically engages with the ways in which anthropologists represent others through ethnography. It explores key themes in contemporary Anthropology by discussing the ethnographic work of some of the discipline's most influential – and sometimes controversial – writers, beginning with some classical works and moving to recent ethnographies. We will explore themes including: the role of the anthropologist in the world; the crisis of ethnographic representation; ethnographic responsibility and the politics of representation; modes of ethnographic scholarship; and public anthropology.

COURSE DELIVERY

ANTH 312 is taught in two 1-hour sessions each week. There is also a 1-hour tutorial during weeks 2-11.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of ANTH 312 is to have students think critically and differently about ethnographic representation. On successful completion of this course you should be able to:

- * Identify and critically analyse key ethical and political issues involved in constructing ethnographic texts.
- * Critically compare and evaluate different modes of ethnographic scholarship (including narrative style, theoretical framing, and unit of analysis).
- * Identify and use an ethnographic voice in your own writing.
- * Formulate a position about public anthropology and locate your practice in relation to it.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

It is recommended that on average you should devote 13 hours per week, including lectures and tutorials. There are generally two or three readings per week, although you are encouraged to read more widely for your assignments.

READINGS

There is no set text for this course. Reading lists will be announced in class and available on E-Reserve at the Library as well as on Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Waterston, Alisse, and Vesperi, Maria D. (2009). *Anthropology off the Shelf: Anthropologists on Writing*. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.

This book is available from the Library as an E-book.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

ANTH 312 is internally assessed with two essays and one in-class test. Essay topics will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. All assignments are compulsory.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Weighting (% of final grade)</i>
Essay One	4pm, Mon 28 March	1500-2000 words*	30%
Essay Two	4pm, Mon 16 May	2500 words*	40%
In-class Test	9-9.50am, Wed 1 June	50 minutes	30%

*** Your essays should not be more than 10% over or under the recommended length. There are no special marks awarded for length, though marks will be deducted for moving outside these limits.**

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

The **essays** will assess the learning objectives listed above and draw on course readings and your own independent research. The purpose of this form of assessment is:

- to encourage deep learning of course materials and enhance skills in critical reading, critical analysis, and written communication.
- to encourage you to think and write like an anthropologist: critically, comparatively, creatively, and reflexively.
- to encourage you to read widely and to use books and articles in developing research skills as a cultural anthropologist.
- to encourage you to engage with key issues encountered by anthropologists in representing others through ethnography.

The **in-class test** is designed to assess how well you have understood and engaged with the lectures and tutorials.

WEEKLY NOTES (OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE YOUR GRADE)

You are also required to submit notes of no more than 250 words (one paragraph is preferable) to BlackBoard before tutorials each week, starting in Week 2. These should summarise the main points you have learned from the previous week's lectures and readings. Your notes do not need to be formally structured but you should attempt to critically engage with the material and reflect on what you thought of it. I will provide more information and examples of notes during the first lecture.

These notes are not marked or assessed but provide an opportunity for you to improve your course grade as they help you prepare for the internal assessment. Their purpose is:

- to foster independent thought and reflection on the material in the readings and lectures.
- to highlight key points and insights of the material.
- to establish good study habits and help you prepare for the essays and test.

PENALTIES

Weekly Notes:

There is no penalty for not submitting notes on a weekly basis, although you will forgo the opportunity to improve your grade if you choose not to complete this task.

Tutorials:

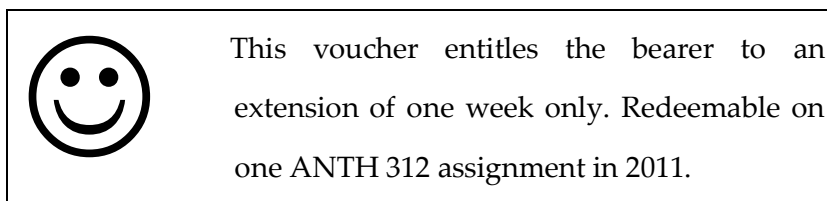
Students should attend one tutorial per week to discuss readings, lecture material and the progress of their own work. It will certainly be to your advantage to attend tutorials, having done each week's reading beforehand. You must attend at least 7 of the 10 tutorials for course completion (see Mandatory Course Requirements).

In-class Test:

Students who miss the in-class test will need to provide a medical certificate or other documentation in order to sit a make-up.

Essays:

Students often ask for extensions of time for essays. I generally do not grant extensions (unless for exceptional circumstances such as illness or some other serious misfortune, in which case you should contact me as soon as possible). However I understand that very occasionally it is simply not possible to meet a deadline for various reasons. With that in mind, I have included a 'one free extension' voucher below.



You may have up to a week's extension on **one** of your assignments without penalty by using this voucher. Use it wisely! No need to contact me, simply scan or upload it from BlackBoard and insert it into your work when you submit it. You can only use it once; if you try to use it more than once you will be subject to the penalties for lateness outlined below.

Penalties will apply for lateness in submitting essays. Unless a medical certificate and/or letter of explanation is presented, 5% will be deducted from the marks for each day that the essay is late (counting that piece of work as 100%). **In addition, if your essay is more than 10 days late, it will only be graded and not marked: no comments will be written on the assignment, it will simply be awarded a grade.**

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirements students must:

- submit essay one and essay two (in hard copy and into Turnitin);
- sit the in-class test;
- attend 7 out of 10 tutorials.

HOW TO SUBMIT ESSAYS 1 AND 2

You must submit both essays electronically through BlackBoard on or before 4pm on the due date. Some of your essays might be submitted to Turnitin (see below for details on Turnitin; consult BlackBoard for ANTH 312 login and password details). Your essays will be marked and returned electronically through BlackBoard.

Note: You do not need to submit a paper copy of your essays.

USE OF 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. 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.

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>

COURSE WITHDRAWAL

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.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.

Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

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 (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: _____