



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 308

Anthropology in Oceania

Course Outline

CRN 276 : 20 POINTS : TRI 1, 2012

Trimester Dates: 5 March – 4 July 2012

Teaching Dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6 April to 22 April 2012

COURSE COORDINATOR: A/PROFESSOR JEFF SISSONS

Room 1017, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 6131

Email: jeff.Sissons@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: WED & FRI 2PM-3PM: HM LT001

ANTH 308 Anthropology in Oceania

COURSE COORDINATOR: A/Prof. Jeff Sissons
Murphy Building, MY 1017
Tel: 463 6131
Email: jeff.Sissons@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

LECTURES: Wednesday & Friday 2–3pm

TUTORIAL: Monday 12 noon – 1pm or Monday 2–3pm

You are required to attend 1 tutorial/week:

Information not included in this outline will be provided in class

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

The major theme running through this course will be deep engagements between indigenous cultural orders and western political, economic and religious systems. Most of the ethnographic examples will be from the South Pacific but we will also explore more generally relationships between globalisation and localisation.

COURSE CONTENT

The course this year will focus on attempts by anthropologists to understand and theorize social change in Oceania, particularly Polynesia. It is divided into three main sections: (1) Culture and History, (2) Culture and Christianity, and (3) Culture, Class and Modernity. In the first section we will critically assess Marshall Sahlins' efforts to theorize relationships between culture and historical practice. A crucial dimension of social change in Oceania has been the indigenisation of Christianity, a process that has been ongoing for two hundred years. Aspects of this process and some contemporary issues associated with it will be considered in the second section of the course. In the third section (after the semester break) we will critically engage with anthropological attempts to understand the emergence of class and distinctive forms of modernity and post-modernity in Oceania.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will have gained a deeper understanding of cultural engagements between indigenous cultural orders and western systems in Oceania and of the process of deep cultural engagement in general. They will also have developed a greater ability to critically analyse the literature in this field and to think about it in a more theoretically informed way.

The forms of assessment will assist you to achieve the aims and objectives outlined above and to develop particular study skills.

- The essays are designed to enhance the research and analytical skills in relation to the study of cultural engagement in Oceania and to enhance your writing skills generally.
- The in-class test is designed to measure how well you have understood the readings and lectures for this course.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

Students should expect to set aside 13 hours per week, including class contact hours.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

There will be two essays and one in-class test. The weightings are as follows:

First Essay: 2000 words **30% of final grade**

Due: 4pm, Friday 30 March 2012

Second Essay: 3000 words **40% of final grade**

Due: 4pm, Friday 1 June 2012

In Class Test: **30% of final grade**

8 June 2012

You will also be required to make one tutorial presentation. This will not be assessed.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENT:

To gain a pass for ANTH 308 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 308 (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%).

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>

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 <http://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/

Information for Maori Students:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents.aspx or <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/index>

Information for Pasifika students:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents.aspx or <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/index>

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, Helen Beaglehole MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677 E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

READINGS

The prescribed text for ANTH 308 is a book of Student notes, which are compiled specifically for this course.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. 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.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE FOR ANTH 308

Culture and History (Weeks 1 and 2)

Sahlins, Marshall, 1994. 'Cosmologies of Capitalism: The Trans-Pacific Sector of "The World System"'. In Dirks, N. et.al. (eds.) *Culture/Power/History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*, Princeton University Press, Chapter 13.

Sahlins, Marshall, 1985. 'Other Times, Other Customs: The Anthropology of History'. In M. Sahlins, *Islands of History*, Chicago University Press, Chapter 2.

Sissons, Jeffrey, 2007. 'From Post to Pillar: God-houses and Social Fields in Nineteenth Century Rarotonga', *Journal of Material Culture*, 12 (1): 47-63

Sissons, Jeffrey, 2008. 'Heroic History and Chiefly Chapels in 19th Century Tahiti', *Oceania* 78: 320-331.

Sissons, Jeffrey, 2011. 'The Tectonics of Power: The Hawaiian Iconoclasm and its Aftermath', *Oceania* 81: 205-216.

Culture and Christianity (Weeks 3 to 5)

Toren, Christina, 1988. 'Making the Present, Revealing the Past: The Mutability and Continuity of Tradition as Process', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 23(4): 696-717

Toren, Christina, 2003. 'Becoming a Christian in Fiji: An ethnographic Study of Ontogeny', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (N.S.) 9: 709-727.

Turner, J. 1992. 'Ritual Habitus and Hierarchy in Fiji', *Ethnology* 31(4): 291-302.

Tomlinson, Matt, 2002. 'Sacred Soil in Kadavu, Fiji', *Oceania* 72(4): 237-257.

Newland, Lynda, 2004. 'Turning Spirits into Witchcraft: Pentecostalism in Fijian Villages', *Oceania*, 75: 1-18.

Besnier, N. 2011. 'Reconfiguring the Modern Christian' In Besnier, N. *On the Edge of the Global: Modern Anxieties in a Pacific Nation*, Stanford University Press, Chapter Eight.

Macpherson, C. and Macpherson L., 2011. 'Churches and the Economy of Samoa', *The Contemporary Pacific*, 23(2): 304-337.

Culture, Class and Modernity (Weeks 6 and 7)

Hau'ofa, Epeli, 1994. 'Our Sea of Islands', *The Contemporary Pacific*, 6(2): 148-161

Sissons, Jeffrey, 1997. 'Conspiracy, Class and Culture in Oceania: A View from the Cook Islands', *The Contemporary Pacific*, 9(1): 164-178

Gewertz, Deborah and Errington, Frederick, 1999. 'Introduction: The Twists and Turns of Difference'. In D. and F. Errington, *Emerging Class in Papua New Guinea: The Telling of Difference*, CUP, pp.1-23

Gewertz, D. and Errington, F., 1998. 'Sleights of Hand and the Construction of Desire in Papua New Guinea Modernity', *The Contemporary Pacific* 10(2): 345-368.

Gewertz, D. and Errington, F., 1999. 'The Wewak Rotary Club: The Middle Class in Melanesia', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 3: 333-353.

Smith, Michael et.al., 2001. Review of *Emerging Class in Papua New Guinea: The Telling of Difference*. *The Contemporary Pacific*, 13: pp262-278.

Culture, Class and Modernity (Weeks 8 and 9)

James, Kerry, 2003. 'Is there a Tongan Middle Class? Hierarchy and Protest in Contemporary Tonga', *The Contemporary Pacific*, 15(2):309-336.

Besnier, N. 2009. 'Modernity, Cosmopolitanism and the Emergence of Middle Classes in Tonga' *The Contemporary Pacific* 21(2): 215-262.

Besnier, N. 2004. 'Consumption and Cosmopolitanism: Practicing Modernity at the Second-hand Market in Nuku'alofa, Tonga', *Anthropological Quarterly* 77(1): 7-45.

Toren, Christina, 1999. 'Drinking Cash: The Purification of Money Through Ceremonial Exchange in Fiji', in Toren, C. *Mind, Materiality and History*, London, Routledge. Chapter 1.

Besnier, N. 2008. 'When Gifts Become Commodities: Pawnshops, Valuables and Shame in Tonga and the Tongan Diaspora', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 14: 39-59.

Culture, Class and Modernity (Weeks 10 and 11)

Morton, Helen, 2004, 'All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism', in Lockwood, V. *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*, Pearson, Chapter 8.

Sissons, Jeffrey, 1997. 'Nation or Dest-nation? Cook Islands Nationalism since 1965. In Otto, T and Thomas, N (eds), *Narratives of Nation in the South Pacific*, Harwood, Chapter Six.

Sissons, Jeffrey, 1999. 'Nation/Destination'. In J. Sissons, *Nation and Destination: Creating Cook Islands Identity*, Institute of Pacific Studies, Chapter 6.

Sissons, Jeffrey, 1994. 'Royal Backbone and Body Politic: Aristocratic Titles and Cook Islands Nationalism since Self Government, *The Contemporary Pacific*, 6(2): 90-110

Kahn, M. 2011. 'Everyday Spaces of Resistance', in Kahn, M. *Tahiti: Beyond the Postcard*, Seattle, University of Washington Press, Chapter Six.

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: _____