

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 489

Research Essay

Course Outline

CRN 290: 30 POINTS: TRIM 1+2, 2012

Trimester Dates: 5 March – 17 November 2012

Teaching Dates: 5 March – 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester Break Trimester 1: 6 – 22 April 2012

Mid-trimester Break Trimester 2: 27 August – 9 September 2012

COURSE COORDINATOR: A/Prof. Jeff Sissons

Room 1017, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 6131

Email: jeff.sissons@vuw.ac.nz

SEMINAR: 9AM – 12PM: MY301

ANTH489 - Research Essay 2012

COURSE COORDINATOR

A/Prof Jeff Sissons, MY 1017

Phone: 463 6131

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Office hours: By appointment

WEBSITE

The School's website is at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs>.

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School:

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International Student Liaison:

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School Manager:

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School Administrators:

Monica Lichti, Alison Melling, Helen Beaglehole
MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677

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COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information relating to ANTH 489 will be conveyed via e-mail.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

In this course students will choose and conduct an independent research project and write an extended essay. They will receive individual supervision from a staff member, and also work as a group learning foundational research skills, such as formulating a research question, writing a literature review and developing an argument.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course students will choose and conduct an independent research project and write an extended essay. They will receive individual supervision from a staff member and also work as a group during weekly seminars, learning to conceptualise a research topic, frame anthropological questions and construct an anthropological argument in relation to them. Students are not expected to engage in field research or to conduct interviews for this course. The research essay should be largely based on library research however students may also use research material gathered in ANTH 408 or other Anthropology Honours courses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this course is to enhance the ability to frame and develop an anthropological argument relating to a topic of the student's choice. For those students proceeding to MA and PhD this course will serve as a valuable preparation for thesis work. For others it will complement the work they do in other ANTH honours courses by providing an opportunity to work on a single topic in a sustained and theoretically informed way. Research competence in cultural anthropology may be enhanced in the following areas:

1. **Conceptual ability** - conceptualising the project and relating it to the existing body of knowledge and research on the subject chosen.
2. **Analytical and writing skills** - the ability to integrate ethnographic information and conceptual/theoretical issues into a final report.
3. **Engagement with the research process** - participation in research seminars, sharing of ideas with your colleagues, working with a supervisor, course co-ordinator and other interested researchers at different stages of the research process.
4. **Management of research** - developing your personal schedule on conducting and completing the research within the constraints of time and resources.

SUPERVISION

Supervisors will be allocated, as far as possible, on the basis of knowledge of the chosen topic and theoretical interest. Subject to enrolment numbers, no staff member should supervise more than three students.

ASSESSMENT

1. *Literature Review - 20%*

A review of the existing literature relating to the chosen topic and an identification of theoretical writing relevant to it will need to be handed in by the date below. This will form the basis of a seminar presentation in the second trimester and should be incorporated into the final essay.

Due date: 4pm, Friday 8 June 2012

2. *Final Research Essay- 80%*

The maximum word limit is normally 10,000 words (excluding bibliography and appendices). Supervisors will be happy to provide detailed comments on a draft of the final essay if this is handed to them by the end of September. **Three copies** of the final version of the essay need to be handed to supervisors by the due date (see below). The Programme reserves the right to retain one copy.

Due date: The **final date** on which research essays will be accepted is 4pm, Friday 19 October 2012

Note: All grades given for in-term work are provisional. Final grades are determined, in conjunction with the external-examiner, at the examiners' meeting in November.

HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

Three copies of the Literature review and Final essay should be handed in - one to the student's supervisor and one to the ANTH 489 course coordinator.

Students Must Keep A Copy Of Every Written Assignment.

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION

Assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date.

You are advised to always keep a copy of any work you submit for assessment.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mandatory course requirements are the completion of a literature review (and the presentation of a seminar based on it) and the completion of the final research essay to be submitted by the due date.

COURSE MATERIAL

Supervisors will assist with advice on reading specific to your project. During the first trimester we will be exploring some influential theoretical frameworks that might assist you in formulating your questions and argument in relation to your chosen topic. During the first trimester we will be discussing readings chosen to stimulate the anthropological imagination and assist you with framing your anthropological enquiry in to your chosen topic. These readings will be placed on Reserve in the main library.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The workload should average 10 hours a week throughout the course. The actual workload will vary at various stages of the course - sometimes it is likely to be more than 10 hours, at others less.

GRADES FOR CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY ASSIGNMENTS

The Cultural Anthropology Programme follows university policy in giving 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	FAILURE:	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 ANTH 489 (or any other course) please see the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences office on the 4th floor of the 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>

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.

Student Learning and Support also run study skills workshops specific to Maori and Pasifika students which students could be referred to for help:

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>

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>