



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

SACS 201

*Methods in Social and Cultural
Research*

Course Outline

CRN 23025 : 20 Points: Trimester 1, 2012

Trimester dates: 5 March to 4 July 2012

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6 April to 22 April 2012

COURSE COORDINATOR: Dr Allison Kirkman

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CLASSES: MONDAY 9-10AM & WEDNESDAY 9-11AM: MURPHY LT632

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Course Coordinator: Dr Allison Kirkman
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Office Hours: Monday 10am-12pm

Class Times and Locations: Monday 9-10am & Wednesday 9-11am,
Murphy LT632

Other Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013
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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023
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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120
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School Manager: Carol Hogan, MY918
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Communication of Additional Information

The noticeboards for this course are located on level 9 and 10 of Murphy building. Additional course-related information will be placed on BlackBoard.

Website

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

Course Prescription

A multi-disciplinary survey of key methodological approaches and methods employed by social science researchers. The course includes critical discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative approaches, ethics and the practice of social and cultural research.

Course Content and Aims

This course is a multi-disciplinary survey of key methodological approaches and techniques employed by social science researchers.

The aims of the course are:

- To introduce students to a range of key methodological approaches and techniques employed by social science researchers.
- To critically discuss the theoretical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative approaches, ethics and the practice of social and cultural research.

Learning Objectives

During this course students will develop an understanding of:

1. the theoretical underpinnings of social research
2. the relationship between research and theory
3. a range of social research perspectives
4. research ethics
5. the principles of quantitative and qualitative research design
6. a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods
7. data analysis, interpretation and presentation.

Course Readings

There is a set text (details below) and a book of student notes (\$18.50) assigned to this course.

Set Text

Tolich, M. and C. Davidson. 2011. *Getting Started: An introduction to research methods*. Pearson Education New Zealand Ltd., Auckland (retail price: \$68.99).

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.

Assessment Requirements

This course is internally assessed. There are three pieces of assessment:

1. *Essay - 30%* *Due by 4pm, 4 April*
2. *Exercise in analysis - 45%*
First section *Due by 4pm, 23 April*
Final section *Due by 4pm, 21 May*
3. *In-class test- 25%* *Due by 4pm, 1 June*

Please note: All assignments are due at 4pm on the day indicated. The assignment box is located next to the lifts on level 9 of the Murphy Building. Turnitin will also be used in this course for the first essay.

Instructions for Turnitin

The first essay must be submitted to Turnitin as well as in paper copy. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted essays to material available on the web and to previously submitted essays. To use it, go to www.turnitin.com, click on 'create a user profile' in the upper right corner. After creating an account, you can log in with your ID and password as with an e-mail account. Use the class ID and enrolment password to enrol in "Course ID"

Class ID: SACS201

Enrolment password: research

When uploading submissions, be sure to click the final 'submit' button. If you have taken all the steps you will receive a notification/receipt.

1. *Short Essay*

Due: 4pm, Wednesday 4 April

Percentage of final grade: 30%

Word Count: 1500 words

This essay relates to the first section of the course and objectives 1 and 2.

1. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a positivist approach to researching socio-cultural issues.
2. What are the main principles of interpretivism and how might this approach be of value in socio-cultural research?
3. What is kaupapa Māori research, and how might it be applied in your discipline area?
4. What are feminist methodologies, and what is their value to socio-cultural research?

2. *Exercise in Data Analysis*

Diary Submission Due: 4pm, Monday 23 April

Analysis Submission Due: 4pm, Wednesday 21 May

Word limit for analysis section: maximum 2000 words

Percentage of final grade: 45%

This exercise covers objectives 3 – 7 and has two parts.

The first part is completing a diary for two days (one during the week and one at the weekend). All the diaries will then be combined to make a data set and distributed to all class members.

The second part will be a submitted assignment providing an analysis of these diaries. Further information will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

3. *In-class test*

Date: Wednesday 6 June

Percentage of final grade: 25%

The test will cover all objectives and includes lecture material and assigned reading in the course.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To meet mandatory course requirements students must:

- Complete all three assessment items by the specified due dates and times.

Students are strongly urged to attend all the timetabled sessions as assignment work is closely related to the lecture content and required reading.

Expected Workload

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

Assignment Cover Sheets

All written work submitted for assessment in the School of Social and Cultural Studies must have a School Assignment Cover sheet, see sample at the back of this Course Outline. Further copies can be located on the reception counter at the Administration Office, and on the Assignment 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.

Extensions/Late Submission

No extensions will be granted unless illness or another extreme emergency prevents you from submitting an assignment. *Any extension must be arranged with the course co-ordinator before the due date and any such extension will not be extended beyond the period of certified illness or emergency.*

Note: Assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date if an extension has been granted. However, work must still be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

Penalties for Late Submission

Late submissions for student assignments 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. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Grades

University policy is followed and letter grades are given for all internally assessed work. 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 | Evidence of familiarity with relevant reading, sound understanding of relevant theoretical/methodological issues, plus individual interpretation and insights of a higher order. An A grade will not be achieved without such insight. Work well presented with logical structure that includes an introduction and a conclusion in addition to clarity of expression. |
| | A | 80%-84% | |
| | A- | 75%-79% | |
| | B+ | 70-74% | As above, but less individual insight and preparation. |
| | B | 65%-69% | High level of understanding exhibited. Assignment well presented. |
| | B- | 60%-64% | |
| | C+ | 55%-59% | Work lacks originality, individual insights and not strong on understanding. However, material used is relevant and presentation is satisfactory. |
| | C | 50%-54% | |
| Fail | D | 40%-49% | Little evidence of reading or comprehension. No insight. Poor presentation. |
| | E | Below 40% | A clear failure to reach an adequate standard on the criteria set out. |

Course Withdrawal Procedures

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from SACS 201 (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>

Course Timetable 2012

| Week | Date | Topic | Reading |
|------|---------|---|---|
| 1 | 05.03 | Introduction | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 1 and 2. Arditti, J. et al. (2010) |
| | 07.03 | Theory and research Essay 1 discussion | |
| 2 | 12.03 | Theory and research | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 3 and 4 Walters, R. (2003) |
| | 14.03 | Research design | |
| 3 | 19.03 | Research design | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 5 Stanley, L., & Wise, S. (1993) Beatson, D & Perry, P. (2002) Campbell, R. (2002) |
| | 21.03 | Research perspectives | |
| 4 | 26.03 | Pasifika methodologies (Dr Sailau Suaalii- Sauni) | Moewaka Barnes, H. (2000). Jahnke, H. and Taiapa, J. (2003) |
| | 28.03 | Kaupapa Māori methodologies (Dr Maria Bargh) | |
| 5 | 02.04 | Data collection Assignment 2 discussion | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 6. |
| | 04.04 | Data Collection - Choice of methods for data collection and sampling Essay 1 due | |
| | 6-22.04 | Mid- trimester Break | |
| 6 | 23.04 | Survey and questionnaire design Diary submission due | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 7 and 8. |
| | 25.04 | No class (ANZAC Day) | |

| | | | |
|----|-------|---|--|
| 7 | 30.04 | Interviewing victims of state violence (Dr Lizzy Stanley) | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 9 and 10 Bryman, A. (2004) |
| | 02.05 | Focus groups | |
| 8 | 07.05 | Discourse analysis (Dr Carol Harrington) | Ketelle, D. (2010) |
| | 09.05 | Thematic and narrative analysis | |
| 9 | 14.05 | Fieldwork & ethnography | Geertz, C. (1993) Richards, R. (2008) |
| | 16.05 | Kuru fieldwork (Dr Annette Beasley) | |
| 10 | 21.05 | Ethics & Research Assignment 2 due | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 11 Wilkinson, T. (2001) Denzin, N. (1968) Wallis, R (1977) |
| | 23.05 | Ethics & Research | |
| 11 | 28.05 | Evaluation (Dr Venezia Kingi) | Tolich and Davidson, Chapter 12 and 13. |
| | 30.05 | Action research Presenting research findings | |
| 12 | 04.06 | No class (Queen's Birthday) | |
| | 06.06 | Test | |

Allison Kirkman is the course coordinator, however a number of academic staff from the School of Social and Cultural Studies will contribute to the lecture programme.

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.

Information for Māori Students:

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents.aspx or www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index

Information for Pasifika students:

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents.aspx or www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/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>

Office use only

Date Received:

(Date Stamp)

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

Full Name: _____

Student ID: _____ Course (eg SACS 301): _____

Tutorial Day: _____ Tutorial Time: _____

Tutor's Name (if applicable): _____

Assignment No.: _____ 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: _____