



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

*Te Kura Mahinga Tangata*

Cultural Anthropology

# ANTH 408

*Ethnographic Research*

## Course Outline

CRN 286: 30 POINTS: TRIM 1&2/2013

*Trimester dates: 4 March – 17 November 2013*

*Teaching dates: 4 March – 18 October 2013*

*Easter break: 28 March – 3 April 2013*

*Mid-trimester break Trimester One: 22 – 28 April 2013*

*Mid-year break: 4 – 14 July 2013*

*Mid-trimester break Trimester Two: 26 August – 8 September 2013*

COURSE COORDINATOR: PROF BRIGITTE BÖNISCH-BREDNICH

*Room 1019, Murphy Building*

*Tel: (04) 463 6528*

*Email: [Brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz)*

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MEETINGS: THURSDAY, 11AM – 2PM, MURPHY 401

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# CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**ANTH 408: 2013**

## **Ethnographic Research**

### **Coordinator**

Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich  
MY 1019  
Ext 6528/ brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4pm or by appointment

### **Meetings**

Murphy 401: Thursdays 11am -2pm

### **Communication of Additional information**

This will be given in class or will be emailed to you. Readings and discussion papers will be given out via blackboard on a weekly basis.

### **Course Prescription**

There are many methods for conducting empirical research. This course will concentrate on those used in ethnographic research, and guide students through their own fieldwork projects. Students will learn how to write a research proposal, a field report and an ethnographic account.

### **Learning Objectives**

#### **Course aim**

This course is an introduction to anthropological research, the central focus of which is ethnography.

#### **Course objective**

The objective of the course is to introduce students to some of the approaches, skills and techniques that contemporary ethnographic researchers use, and to afford students the opportunity to practise some of the approaches, skills and techniques under supervision.

Course work will be mixture of theoretical approaches towards fieldwork, discussion of different methodologies, workshop sessions and analysis of some ethnographic films. Upon the successful completion of the course, students will have acquired familiarity with the philosophical, ethical and epistemological underpinnings of anthropological research, and with the skills and techniques anthropologists employ in their work.

## **Assessment**

This course is internally assessed. Assessment will be based on two oral presentations (the first based on a hand out / powerpoint (20%), the second based on a field work report) (20%) and one essay (60%) of about 5000-10000 words depending on possible documentation of the fieldwork undertaken (field notes, maps, photographic documentation and quoting of interviews). The mark of this major essay will be a summary of the essay itself and the accompanying oral presentation in class preceding the written versions. The essay will be based on a fieldwork project of the students own choice and will contain a methodological introduction outlining the design of a fieldwork project, a fieldwork report and an analytical report which will combine the findings with secondary literature and reflections on methodology and finally the altered design after the fieldwork experience.

The assignments will be discussed and designed with the students taking this class. It will give students direct experience of anthropological research as outlined in the aims and objectives of the course.

Linking of learning objectives and assessment: all set assignments are directly linked to the learning objectives of this course. The first assignment is designed to get students engaged with literature of ethnographic methods and independent literature search, presentation of a seminar on ethnographic method and the presentation of a bibliography on a specific method. The second and third assignments are set to help the students to actively reflect, report and write on the application of their chosen methodologies in connection to a fieldwork project and its outcome.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

To pass this course, students must have given their oral presentation (plus hand out or powerpoint) in class during **the first six** weeks of the trimester, their oral and written field work report by **9 August 2013** and handed in their major essay (60%) by **18 October 2013**.

## **Workload**

In accordance with guidelines from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the average workload for a 30-point course per week is 10 hours, or 300 hours across 2 trimesters.

## **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. The Class representative's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class.

## **Course Withdrawal**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

## **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>**

## **Where to Find More Detailed Information**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress).

Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

Information for Māori Students: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents) or [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/index](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index)

Information for Pasifika students: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents) or [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/index](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index)

## **Other Contact Information**

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013  
Tel: 463 5676 E-m: [allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz)

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023  
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Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101  
Tel: 463 5432 E-m: [trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz)

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120  
Tel: 463 9980 E-m: [russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz)

School Manager: Carol Hogan, MY918  
Tel: 463 6546 E-m: [carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz)

School Administrators:  
Beaglehole Suzanne Weaver, Alison Melling, Helen  
MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677  
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# 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: \_\_\_\_\_