



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
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, 2013**

*Trimester Dates: 4 March – 17 November 2013*

*Teaching Dates: 4 March – 18 October 2013*

*Extended Easter Break Trimester 1: 28 March - 3 April 2013*

*Mid-trimester Break Trimester 1: 22 – 28 April 2013*

*Mid-year Break: 4 – 14 July 2013*

*Mid-trimester Break Trimester 2: 26 August – 8 September 2013*

**COURSE COORDINATOR: Dr Lorena Gibson**

*Room 1005, Murphy Building*

*Tel: (04) 463 6747*

*Email: Lorena.Gibson@vuw.ac.nz*

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**SEMINAR: TUESDAYS 9AM – 12PM: MY 401**

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# **ANTH489 – RESEARCH ESSAY 2013**

**COURSE COORDINATOR:** Dr Lorena Gibson  
Level 10, Murphy Building, MY 1005  
Phone: 463 6747  
E-mail: [Lorena.Gibson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Lorena.Gibson@vuw.ac.nz)

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**SEMINARS:** Tuesdays 9-11.50am in MY 401

## **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.

## **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.

## **COURSE MATERIAL**

Supervisors will assist with advice on reading specific to your project. In seminars during the first trimester we will explore some influential theoretical frameworks that might assist you in formulating your questions and argument in relation to your chosen topic. We will also discuss readings chosen to stimulate the anthropological imagination and assist you with framing your anthropological enquiry in to your chosen topic during the first trimester. These readings will be placed electronically on Blackboard and in hard copy on Reserve in the main library.

## **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

## 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 ASSESSMENT

### *Literature Review (20% of final grade)*

**Due date:** 4pm, Friday 7 June 2013 (for the written review; seminar presentation dates will be assigned in class)

**Length:** 2,000 words (approx.)

You are required to conduct and write a review of the existing literature and theoretical writing relevant to your chosen topic. This literature review will form the basis of a seminar presentation in the second trimester (see below) and should also be incorporated into your final essay.

### *Seminar Presentation (10% of final grade)*

**Due date:** All seminars will be completed by Friday 27 September 2013 (for the written review; seminar presentation dates will be assigned in class)

You are required to give a seminar presentation based on your literature review in class in the second trimester. Seminar presentation dates will be assigned in class.

### *Final Research Essay (70% of final grade)*

**Length:** 10,000 words maximum (excluding bibliography and appendices)

**Due date:** The final date on which research essays will be accepted is 4pm, Friday 18 October 2013

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 must be handed to supervisors by the due date. The Programme reserves the right to retain one copy.

**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.

## 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%			

## REFERENCING STYLE

In the VUW Cultural Anthropology Programme all students must use the author-date format used by the American Anthropological Association (AAA). Please note that this format uses footnotes or endnotes only for supplementary information and that *ibid* is never used. You will find a copy of the Cultural Anthropology Referencing Guidelines (with examples) on Blackboard.

## HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

You must hand in three copies of the Literature review and Final essay. You should submit one to your supervisor and two to the ANTH 489 course coordinator

*Students Must Keep A Copy Of Every Written Assignment.*

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirements for ANTH 489 students just:

- Submit a literature review;
- Present a seminar based on the literature review;
- Submit the final research essay by the due date.

## **PENALTIES**

Penalties will apply for lateness in submitting essays. 5% will be deducted from the marks for each day that the essay is late (counting that piece of work as 100%).

*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. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

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

## **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 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 CAN be found at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

## **USE OF TURNITIN**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may 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 the 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>

## 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).

**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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents) or

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/index>

***Information for Pasifika students:***

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents) 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](mailto:allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz)

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023  
Tel: 463 6132 E-m: [hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz)

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: Suzanne Weaver, Alison Melling, Helen Beaglehole  
MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677  
E-m: [sacs@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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 (e.g. SOSC 112): \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_