

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
*Te Kura Mahinga Tangata*

# Cultural Anthropology

# ANTH 102

## Social and Cultural Diversity

**20 POINTS**  
TRIMESTER 2, 2013

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Study period:** 21–25 October 2013

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 25 October to 16 November 2013

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

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## Class times and locations

<b>Lectures:</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	10.00-10.50am	KK LT303
<b>Tutorials:</b>	Monday	9 – 9.50 am, 12 – 12.50pm, 2.10 – 3pm	VZ103
	Tuesday	11 – 11.50am, 1.10 – 2pm,	VZ103
	Tuesday	2.10 – 3pm, 4.10 – 5pm	MY301
	Wednesday	2.10– 3pm, 4.10 pm – 5pm	MY301
	Wednesday	12 – 12.50, 3.10 – 4pm	EA201
	Thursday	4.10 – 5pm	MY401
	Thursday	2.10– 3.00 pm	MY301
	Thursday	12.00 – 12.50pm, 3.10 – 4pm	EA201
	Friday	12.00 – 12.50pm , 3.10 – 4pm	EA201

There will be 9 tutorials for this course. Please sign yourself into tutorials via S-cubed; instructions will be posted on Blackboard. Once you have committed to a particular tutorial time you cannot change unless discussed with the course coordinator.

## Names and contact details

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## Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted on Blackboard and announced at tutorials. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use

## Prescription

This course introduces students to the study of social and cultural diversity by exploring culture and its role in our lives. Topics include ritual, symbolism, the body, exchange, belief, inequality, globalisation, kinship, gender and class. Case studies are drawn from New Zealand, the Pacific, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

## **Course content**

### ***Week 1 (beginning 15 July)***

#### ***Core Concepts***

What is anthropology? What are the origins of the discipline? What is culture?

### ***Week 2 (beginning 22 July)***

#### ***Introduction to Anthropological Methods and Ethnography***

How do anthropologists carry out research? What is participant observation and how did ethnographic field methods develop? What is the difference between inductive and deductive research?

### ***Week 3 (beginning 29 July)***

#### ***Ethnography, epistemology and the position of the anthropologist***

Are all ethnographies similar? What is epistemology? How does an anthropologist's background and social position affect his/her research?

### ***Week 4 (beginning 5 August)***

#### ***Ritual and Symbolism: Core Anthropological Concepts***

What are symbols and rituals? How do humans construct and communicate meaning through ritual and symbolism? What is a rite of passage and what does 'liminality' mean?

### ***Week 5 (beginning 12 August)***

#### ***Gender and Ritual: Masculinity and Initiation Rites***

How does ritual transform biological changes such as birth, puberty, reproduction and death into meaningful ways of belonging to social groups? How do such rituals create both social solidarity and social distinctions?

### ***Week 6 (beginning 19 August)***

#### ***Symbolism: The Body***

How is culture embodied? How does the body become a symbol of society? How do our bodily rituals reflect and enable our cultural ideals and social systems?

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### ***26 August - 8 September - Mid Trimester Break***

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### ***Week 7 (beginning 9 September)***

#### ***Marriage: Basic Concepts and Diverse Forms***

Can we define marriage? What different forms does it take? Why do some cultures think that an ideal marriage has more than two spouses?

### ***Week 8 (beginning 16 September)***

#### ***Relations of Blood and Love***

What is *descent*? Are 'blood ties' universally the same? Are biological ties and love important aspects of kinship for all cultures?

### **Week 9 (beginning 23 September)**

#### ***Gift Exchange, Power and Prestige***

Why do people give gifts? Do people build social connections or enhance social difference through gift exchange and redistribution?

### **Week 10 (beginning 30 September)**

#### ***Global Markets, Class and Inequality***

What sort of exchange relationships and power relations emerge with a market economy? Are these relationships really exploitative, as Marx argued? And what happens to capitalist exchange relationships when they go global?

### **Week 11 (beginning 7 October)**

#### ***Witchcraft: Anthropological Debate and Explanation***

How have anthropologists made sense of modern witchcraft beliefs and practices? What sorts of social structures do witchcraft practices support or challenge?

### **Week 12 (beginning 14 October)**

#### ***Belief, Social Change and Resistance***

By utilising and transforming spiritual belief systems, how do people gain social influence or resist dominant power structures? What are some of the ways that indigenous groups have resisted and adapted to colonisation and market transformations?

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Have a functional understanding of key concepts in anthropology.
2. Knowledge of a range of ethnographic material illustrating social and cultural diversity.
3. Be able to draw connections between ethnography and theoretical concepts and among ethnographic cases.
4. Have developed skills in critical reading, bibliographic research and citation, and the clear presentation of ideas, in oral and written form.

## **Teaching format**

This course involves three one hour lectures a week and 9 one hour tutorial sessions.

Participation in tutorials is an essential part of this course. Tutorials will **not** be a summary of reading or review of the lectures, but discussions and activities intended to help you: learn to use the concepts presented to analyse both ethnographic materials and your own experience; understand the principals of holism and comparison and apply these to understanding social and cultural diversity; develop skills in analysing and synthesising data and concepts from various sources; and improve your critical reading and your ability to put your ideas into words.

***To gain full value from the course you should attend all lectures and tutorials.***

## **Mandatory course requirements**

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attend at minimum 7 of the 9 tutorials,

2. submit the two assignments, and
3. sit the final exam

## Workload

The design of the course is based upon an assumption that students will need to spend a minimum of 13 hours a week. This workload is in accordance with the guidelines put forward by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## Assessment

The course will be assessed consisting of the following:

### Assessment One

#### Article Synopsis

**Assignment weighting:** 20%

**Word Limit:** 1200 words.

**Due:** 4pm, Monday, 5 August 2013, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Bldg

An assignment information sheet will be available on blackboard from the first week of the trimester.

### Assessment Two

#### Reflective Essay

**Assignment weighting:** 30%

**Word Limit:** 1500 words

**Due:** 4pm Monday, 23 September 2013, SACS Essay Box, level 9, Murphy Bldg

An assignment information sheet will be available on blackboard from the first week of the trimester.

### Assessment Three

#### Final Exam

**Assignment weighting:** 50%

A final 2-hour exam will be held between 25 October and 16 November, date tbc.

The examination will be designed to enable evaluation of your knowledge and understanding of the course material in relation to the aims and objectives outlined above. More information will be available closer to the exam during lectures, tutorials and on Blackboard. The exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. It will cover all material from lectures, readings, tutorials, and AV presentations. To do well you will need to demonstrate proficiency with both theory and ethnography.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Article synopsis (1200 word article)	20%	2,3,4	5/8/13
2	Reflective essay (1500 word essay)	30%	1,2,3,4	23/9/13
3	Final exam (2 hours)	50%	1,2,3,4	tbc

## Submission and return of work

Assessments one and two must be submitted via **Turnitin** on Blackboard before placing it into the Essay Box on level 9, Murphy Building on the due date. This is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted, and that you are credited with timely submission. At 4 pm every day the box will be emptied, the assignments date-stamped and recorded, then handed over to the

appropriate markers. Unless you have followed this procedure the Programme will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

Note: ***You must keep a copy of every written assignment.***

All written work submitted for assessment in ANTH 102 must have a School Assignment Cover Sheet. A sample is included at the end of this Course Outline. Further copies can be found on the reception counter at the Administration Office, and on the Assignment Box, on level 9 of Murphy Building.

Assignments will be returned at tutorials. Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9<sup>th</sup> floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm** only from Monday to Friday.

## **Penalties**

Penalties will apply for lateness in presenting assignments. 5% of the value of the assignment will be deducted from the piece of work per day (e.g., on a 20 mark assignment you would lose 1 mark for each late day).

## **Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements**

There are no other arrangements for this course.

## **Set texts**

Each student should buy the prepared book of Student Notes from VicBooks since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

## **Class representative**

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## **Student feedback**

Student evaluations are a valued source of feedback and will be completed in the second half of the course. Student feedback from previous years can be found at:  
[http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## School Contact Information

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School of Social and Cultural Studies: [www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/)