



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SACS 201

**Methods in Social and Cultural
Research**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2013

Important dates

Trimester and teaching dates: 18 November – 20 December 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to 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

Class times and locations

Lectures:	Monday	13:10 - 15:00pm	New Kirk KKL T 301
	Tuesday	09:00 - 10:50am	New Kirk KKL T 301
Workshop	Tuesday	11.00 – 11.50am	New Kirk KKL T 301

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Dr Allison Kirkman
Murphy Building, MY 1013
Tel: 04 463 5676
E-mail: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz
Office hour: Monday 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment

Communication of additional information

Additional information related to the course will be made available on Blackboard. 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

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

Monday 18 th November	1. Introduction - Qualitative and quantitative methods 2. Theory and research
Tuesday 19 th November	1. Theory and research 2. Research design
Monday 25 th November	1. Interviews 2. Focus groups
Tuesday 26 th November	1. Fieldwork and ethnography 2. Fieldwork and ethnography
Monday 2 December	1. Survey and questionnaires 2. Survey and questionnaires
Tuesday 3 December	1. Thematic analysis 2. Discourse analysis
Monday 9 December	1. Visual methodologies 2. Visual methodologies

Tuesday 10 December	1. Kaupapa Māori methodologies 2. Pasifika methodologies 3. In-class test
Monday 16 December	1. Ethics and Research 2. Ethics and Research
Tuesday 17 December	1. Report writing 2. Overview of course

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to demonstrate 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.

Teaching format

Lectures

While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them, and will be advantaged if they do so. The workshop slot on Tuesday 11.00 – 11.50am will be used for discussion of lecture content, elaboration on assessment or the showing of films.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must submit the key concepts exercise, sit the in-class test and submit the exercise in analysis.

Workload

University guidelines stipulate that a 20-point course should require 200 hours over a trimester, including class time, of student work. Because this course is being taught over five weeks, students should be prepared to commit a large amount of time to the course over the five weeks.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Key concepts exercise (1000 words)	25%	1,2	25 November
2	In-class test (50 minutes)	35%	1,2,3,4,5,	10 December
3	Exercise in analysis (2000 words)	40%	6,7	17 December

This course is 100% internally assessed and requires three pieces of work (two exercises and one in-class test).

1. Exercise 1 (1000 words)

Due 25th November

Choose **5** key concepts from the list below and define this concept and describe how the concept applies to social and cultural research. Use up to 200 words for each concept and provide a complete bibliography.

Key concepts:

ontology, epistemology, methodology, triangulation, qualitative, quantitative, positivism, constructivism, interpretivism.

2. In-class test (50 minutes)

In-class 10th December

This test will cover all material included in lectures up until this date.

3. Exercise 2 (2000 words)

Due 17th December

This is an exercise using visual methodologies. You should choose an image or series of images relating to Christmas and critically analyse them using a concept or concepts that you have encountered in your social science courses. Your image(s) may come from the media or be photographs you have taken yourself. If they are photographs you have taken then they should be from a public space and not include identifiable people in them. More information on this exercise will be given in the lectures on visual methodologies and provided on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

Both exercises must be submitted electronically through Turnitin by the due date. They will be marked and returned to you electronically. The test will be completed in class on the 10th December. It will be returned in class.

Instructions for Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course will 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 submissions is not made available to any other party.

The two exercises must be submitted to Turnitin. 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: methods

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

Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses 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.

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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There are no additional materials required for this course.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

There is no set text. All required readings for the course will be placed on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

A list of readings related to the course and assignments will be available on Blackboard.

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:

Student feedback

You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course.

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

School Contact Information

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School of Social and Cultural Studies: www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/