



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 489 RESEARCH PROJECT

30 POINTS

TRIMESTERS 1 & 2, 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Mid-year break: 2–12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last Assessment Item Due: 16 October 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Thursday 9:00-11:50am Murphy 531

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Lorena Gibson
MY 1005, Level 10, Murphy Building
Email: lorena.gibson@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: (04) 463 6747
Office Hour: Wednesday 10-11am

Communication of additional information

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

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 content

In this course students will choose and conduct an independent research project and write an extended essay. 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.

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.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to demonstrate:

1. **Conceptual ability** – conceptualise a project and relate it to the existing body of knowledge and research on the subject chosen.
2. **Analytical and writing skills** – integrate ethnographic information and conceptual/theoretical issues into a final report.

3. **Engagement with the research process** – participate in research seminars, share ideas with colleagues, and work with a supervisor, course co-ordinator and other interested researchers at different stages of the research process.
4. **Management of research** – develop a personal schedule to conduct and complete research within the constraints of time and resources.

Teaching format

Students taking ANTH 489 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.

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.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- Submit a literature review, and
- Submit the research essay by the due date.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 30 point course equates to 300 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled class time (one 3 hour lecture per week), individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks. The workload should be at least 10 hours per week throughout the course. It is likely students will spend at least 60 hours preparing their literature review, and 180 hours on the final research essay and seminar presentation. The remaining time will be spent in class, reading and meeting with their supervisor.

Assessment

Assessment item	To be completed by	%	CLO(s)
Literature Review (approx. 3,000 words)	4pm, Friday 1 May 2015	30%	1, 3
Research Essay (10,000 words maximum)	4pm, Friday 16 October 2015	70%	1, 2, 3, 4

Literature Review (approx. 3,000 words; 30% of final grade)

You are required to conduct and write a review of the existing literature and theoretical writing relevant to your chosen topic. This literature review should be incorporated into your research essay. The 3,000 word limit includes your bibliography.

Research Essay (max. 10,000 words; 70% of final grade)

You are required to conduct independent research on a topic of your choice and write a research essay based on it. Supervisors will be happy to provide detailed comments on a final draft if it is handed to them **by the middle of September**. The 10,000 word limit includes bibliography and appendices.

Submission and return of work

Three copies of your written work must be handed in by the due date. You should submit one to your supervisor and two to the ANTH 489 course coordinator. The Programme reserves the right to retain one copy.

The course coordinator (not your supervisor) will mark your written work and return it to you. Please note that all grades given for in-term work are provisional. Final grades are determined, in conjunction with supervisors and the external-examiner, at the examiners' meeting in November.

You must keep a copy of all marked work for ANTH 489 to hand in at the end of the year. Your marked work will go to an external examiner for moderation. Further information about this examination process will be provided in class.

Marked assignments not handed back in class can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00pm** only from Monday to Friday.

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

Referencing Style

In the 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.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions are possible if you are having serious difficulties in completing your work. You must talk to the course coordinator before the due date if you think you will need an extension. Please note that you might be asked for written justification, e.g., a medical certificate, death notice, or letter from a counsellor.

Penalties

Penalties will apply for lateness in presenting assignments. 5% will be deducted from the piece of work per day counting that piece of work as 100%. This penalty will only be waived by the presentation of a medical certificate or other evidence of incapacity.

Assessment work will not be accepted for marking or for receiving comments more than seven days after the due date or seven days after an approved extension date. To meet mandatory course requirements work must still be submitted.

Set text

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended Reading

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 delivered electronically via 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 can 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>

- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Tel: 463 5676, Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine MY1023 Tel: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Tel: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Tel: 463 9980, Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Tel: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677 Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/