



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 215

Special Topic: Culture and the Material World

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 15 October 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:

Monday 13.10 – 14.00 in Maclaurin MCLT102

Thursday 13.10 – 14.00 in Maclaurin HMLT205

Tutorials:

Please sign up for a tutorial using MyAllocator:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables/tutorial-sign-up>

There will be 9 tutorials for this course. 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

Associate Professor Jeff Sissons

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Office hours: By Appointment

Dr Catherine Trundle

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Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted 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 forward messages received from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

Social worlds are also material worlds. This course examines contemporary debates in anthropology concerning the materiality of social life and the social agency of things. Topics covered include architecture, urban scapes, fetishism, idolatry, emerging technologies, capitalism and commodities.

Course content

Week 1: Introduction

Weeks 2 to 4: Urban Life

Weeks 5 and 6: Technology

Weeks 6 to 8: Fetishism

Weeks 9 to 11: Architecture

Week 12: Conclusion

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. critically evaluate anthropological approaches to key aspects of material culture.
2. relate anthropological theories of culture and the material world to a range of ethnographic examples.
3. carry out an independent and original anthropological analysis of an aspect of the material world.

Teaching format

This course involves two 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; 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 so they will have the opportunity to develop oral communication and teamwork skills as required for CLO 4.
2. submit the two assignments to ensure they develop the skills associated with CLO 4, and can demonstrate they have a functional understanding of their key ideas associated with CLOs 1-4.
3. sit the in-class test in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 20-point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Urban ethnography book review, 2000 words	35%	1, 2, 3	14 August
2 Research Essay, 2000 words	40%	1, 2, 3	2 October
3 In-Class test (50 minutes)	25%	1, 2, 3	15 October

Assessment One

Urban ethnography book review

Assignment weighting: 35%

Word Limit: 2000 words.

Due: 4pm, Friday, 14 August 2015, SACS Essay Box, Level 9, Murphy Building

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

Assessment Two

Research Essay

Assignment weighting: 40%

Word Limit: 2000 words

Due: 4pm Friday, 2 October 2015, SACS Essay Box, Level 9, Murphy Building

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

Assessment Three

Final Test

Assignment weighting: 25%

A 50 minute in-class test will be held in the final lecture, 15 October.

The in-class test consist of short answer questions. It will cover all material from lectures and tutorial readings.

Submission and return of work

Submit a paper copy to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date. Your essay **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

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

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions are possible if you are having serious difficulties in completing your work. You must contact 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.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course. Readings will be provided to students on Blackboard during the course in Trimester 2.

Recommended reading

Journal of Material Culture.

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

Student feedback indicated students appreciated the range of engaging topics covered and the lecturing styles. In response to feedback the course content has been reordered to ensure greater flow, and a new book review assessment has been introduced. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

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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

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