



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
TE KURA MAHINGA TANGATA**

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**ANTH 204
MODERN ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT
20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 2 June 2016 (in-class test)

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 14:10-15:00pm Hunter LT 220

Tutorials: Please sign up for a tutorial using Myallocator:

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

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator Associate Professor Jeff Sissons
Murphy Building, MY 1017
Tel: 04 463 6131
Email: jeff.sissons@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: 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

This course explores inspiring and influential ideas in recent Anthropology by discussing the writings of some of the discipline's greatest thinkers. Among the topics considered are: symbolism and the interpretation of cultures; culture and globalisation; ethnography and morality; culture and history; culture and evolution; culture and power; culture and experience.

Course content

This course engages critically with the main theoretical perspectives influential in cultural anthropology since the mid-20th century. All of the thinkers considered in this course have made profound contributions to our understanding of the relationships between culture (the symbolic dimension of human life) and society (including relations of power). The main theoretical approaches discussed will include: functionalism, structuralism, interpretive anthropology, Marxist anthropology, practice theory, phenomenological anthropology, evolutionary anthropology and the recent ontological turn.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- (1) Have a deeper understanding of some central currents within contemporary anthropological thought
- (2) Develop a greater ability to critically analyse anthropological writing in general and
- (3) Think and write about the relationships between culture and society in more theoretically informed ways.

The forms of assessment will assist in achieving the aims and objectives outlined above and to develop particular study skills.

- The essays are designed to enhance general research and analytical skills in cultural anthropology and to enhance writing skills generally.
- The in-class test is designed to measure how well the readings and lectures for this course have been understood.

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.

While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them, and will be advantaged if they do so. As per the Mandatory course requirements below, students are required to attend at least 6 out of 9 tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- Attend at least 6 out of 9 tutorials in order to meet all Course Learning Objectives,
- Complete and submit essay 1 and essay 2 to demonstrate competence in all Course Learning Objectives, and
- sit the in-class test to demonstrate competence in all Course Learning objectives, and to show how well the reading and lectures for this course have been understood.

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

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

	Assessment item	% of final grade	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay One (1500 word essay)	35	2,3	4pm on 31 March 2016
2	Essay Two (2000 word essay)	40	2, 3	4pm on 20 May 2016
3	In-class test (45 minutes)	25	1, 2, 3	2 June 2016

Essay topics will be handed out during lectures and posted on Blackboard.

A guidance statement on the in-class test will be handed out at least two weeks before the date of the test.

Submission and return of work

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm on the due date. All work is date-stamped and receipt recorded. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within two-weeks of the due date. Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, **between 11:00am and 3:00pm only** from Monday to Friday.

The in-class test will be collected at the end of the class on 2 June.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If you wish to seek an extension please contact the Course Coordinator **before** the due date of the assessment item. The granting of extensions is at the discretion of the Course Coordinator.

Penalties

Penalties will apply for lateness in presenting assignments. Unless an extension has been approved beforehand or a medical certificate is later presented 5% will be deducted from the marks for each day that the assignment is late (counting that piece of work as 100%).

Set texts

There is no set text for this course. All readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

Moore, J.D. (2009), *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists* (3rd edition), Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press. Available from vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus.

'Film Interviews with Anthropologists' is the title of a good collection on YouTube.

Note that an extensive 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.

Student feedback

In response to student feedback, the essay topics have been written to give students more guidance and also to allow for more flexibility for students with a particular interest in a topic area to follow that up.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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:	Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019 Phone: 463 6528, Email: brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz
Māori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Sarah Wright, MY1115 Phone: 463 5874, Email: sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Gill Blomgren, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677, Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs

