



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 408

Ethnographic Research

30 POINTS

TRIMESTERS 1 & 2, 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 16 October 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 30 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

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/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

Tuesday 10:00 - 12:50 KP14109A, 14 Kelburn Pde

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
MY1019, Level 10 Murphy Building
Email: brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: (04) 463 6528

Office Hour: Tuesdays 3-4pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information relating to ANTH 408 will be conveyed via email 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

There are many methods for conducting empirical research. This course will concentrate on those used in ethnographic research, and guide students through their own fieldwork projects. Students will learn how to write a research proposal, a field report and an ethnographic account.

Course content (*optional*)

If there is a need to provide more detailed information about the course, beyond that covered in the prescription, include it here. A lecture-by-lecture breakdown may be useful but if it runs to several pages, the information should be provided as a separate document.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the philosophical, ethical and epistemological underpinnings of anthropological research;
2. design an independent ethnographic fieldwork project;
3. practise some of the approaches, skills and techniques used by contemporary ethnographic researchers in their own fieldwork projects, with supervision.
4. Give seminar presentation and lead workshops in a safe environment of the class room

Teaching format

ANTH 408 will be delivered as a series of weekly interactive seminars. Course work will be mixture of theoretical approaches towards fieldwork, discussion of different methodologies,

workshop sessions and analysis of some ethnographic films. You are expected to come to class prepared to talk and to actively participate in seminars. Most class time will be devoted to discussing the issues raised in the readings, films, and your fieldwork experiences. You are required to read assigned material before class so you are prepared to answer and debate questions raised by the lecturer and others.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. present a seminar on an ethnographic method and submit a bibliography; CLO 1, 4
2. submit a research proposal; CLO 1, 2
3. submit a fieldwork report in oral and written form; 2, 3, 4
4. submit the final essay. 1, 2, 3, 4

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 (2 hours per week), individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks. We will discuss how to manage reading, fieldwork, and writing workloads as part of the course.

Assessment

The length, style, and content of assessment for ANTH 408 will be discussed and designed in conjunction with students taking this course. This approach will provide students with direct experience of the practicalities involved in conducting ethnographic research. ANTH 408 will be assessed as follows:

| Assessment item | To be completed by | % of final grade | CLO(s) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| Research proposal | Friday 1 April | 0% | 1, 2 |
| Seminar on ethnographic method | Tuesday 24 May | 20% | 1, 4 |
| Fieldwork report | Friday 12 August | 20% | 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Final essay | Friday 14 October | 60% | 1, 2, 3 |

Research proposal (mandatory but not assessed)

Due: Friday 1 April 2016

Length: 2-3 pages approx. (the length, style and content of research proposals will be discussed in class)

ANTH 408 is an introduction to anthropological research, the central focus of which is ethnography. The objective of the course is to afford you the opportunity to practice some of the approaches, skills and techniques used by contemporary ethnographic researchers under supervision. This involves developing a fieldwork project on a topic of your choice and undertaking

ethnographic fieldwork in relation to it. As part of that, you will write and submit a short research proposal prior to conducting fieldwork. This research proposal is not assessed but is a mandatory course requirement, and you will be able to incorporate parts of it into your final research essay.

Seminar on an Ethnographic Method (20% of final grade)

Due: All seminars to be completed by **Tuesday 24 May 2016**. Seminar dates will be assigned in class.

You will conduct an independent literature search to review existing work on a particular ethnographic method (which will be assigned in class). You will present your findings to the class as a short 20 minute informal seminar and distribute a select bibliography (10-15 titles) on your specific method to your classmates during your seminar (as a handout or Power Point slide).

Fieldwork Report (20% of final grade)

Due: All fieldwork reports (oral and written form) to be completed by **Friday 12 August 2016**. Oral presentation dates will be assigned in class.

After submitting your proposal and conducting fieldwork, you will prepare a 30 minute fieldwork report and present it in oral and written form. Your fieldwork report should describe the activities undertaken during fieldwork and reflect on the application of your chosen methodologies, among other things. Your written fieldwork report will form the basis of your oral presentation and should also be incorporated into your final essay Maximum word length 3000 words.

Final Essay (60% of final grade)

Due: **Friday 14 October 2016**

Length: **8000-10000 words. The word count includes most parts of the previously handed in field report plus documentation of the fieldwork undertaken that is not part of the written essay but part of an appendix (fieldnotes, maps, photographic documentation, interview quotations).**

Your major piece of assessment involves writing a final essay based on your chosen fieldwork project. This essay will provide an ethnographic account of your research. It should contain a methodological introduction outlining the design of the fieldwork project (drawn from your research proposal), a fieldwork report, an analytical report combining your findings with secondary literature and reflections on the relationship between methodology and outcome, and finally the altered design after the fieldwork experience.

Assessment Criteria

In general, your essays will be assessed with the following criteria in mind:

- Structure, style and presentation
- Critical analysis

- Strength of argument
- Effective use of ethnographic material
- Mastery of relevant theories/methodologies
- Referencing and bibliography

We will discuss specific criteria for each piece of assessment in class.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until the completion of honours moderation. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made at the Honours moderation meeting.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in two ways: as an electronic copy uploaded to Blackboard, and as a paper copy submitted to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office (Level 9, Murphy Building). Work must be submitted by 4pm on the due date. Submission instructions will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

You must keep a copy of all marked work for ANTH 408 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.

All assignments will be marked by the course coordinator. Work will be returned in class and your grades will also be posted to the MyGrades section of Blackboard. Please note that all grades given for in-term work are provisional. Final grades are determined, in conjunction with the external examiner, at the examiners' meeting in November.

Marked assignments not handed back in class can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **11.00 and 3.00 pm** only from Monday to Friday.

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

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions are possible if you are having serious difficulties in completing your work. You must talk to the course coordinator, Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, 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 texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. All readings will be placed on Blackboard by the Course Coordinator.

Recommended reading

Include a manageable amount of recommended reading (e.g. up to half a page). If the list of recommended reading exceeds approximately half a page refer the student to a separate document, to be provided by the course coordinator.

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

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

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| 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 |