



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 489

RESEARCH PROJECT

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

Lectures: Thursday 10:00am-12:50pm KP14, 109A (14 Kelburn Parade)

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: A/Prof Jeff Sissons
MY1017, Level 10, Murphy Building
Email: jeff.sissons@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: (04) 463 6131

Office Hour: By appointment

Communication of additional information

Announcements and additional information will be 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 learn 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 Anthropology 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** –share ideas with your supervisor 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.

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:

- complete and submit a genuine attempt at a full draft of their research essay to their supervisor by the due date, in order to meet CLOs 1,2,3 and 4, and
- Revise their draft essay and submit a final research essay to their supervisor by the due date, in order to meet CLOs 1, 2, 3 and 4.

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 30-point course equates to 300 hours over the trimester.

Assessment

Assessment item	To be completed by	%	CLO(s)
Draft Research Essay (10,000 words maximum)	4pm 1 September 2016	30%	1, 3 4
Final Research Essay (10,000 words maximum)	4pm, Friday 14 October 2016	70%	1, 2, 3, 4

Draft Research Essay (max. 10,000 words; 30% of final grade)

You are required to conduct independent research on a topic of your choice and write a first draft of a research essay based on this research. Your supervisors will meet with you and provide you with detailed comments on this draft and general guidance for revising the essay.

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

You are required to revise your draft essay taking into consideration the detailed comments and general guidance of your supervisor with respect to this draft. The final research essay should have a clear structure and an original argument. The 10,000-word limit includes bibliography and appendices.

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

One copy of your draft research essay and **two** copies of final research essay must be handed in to your supervisor by the due dates.

Your supervisor will mark your draft essay and return it to you. The course coordinator and your supervisor will independently mark your final essay and agree on a final mark before returning it to you. Please note that all grades given for in-term work are provisional. Copies of your marked work will be sent to an external examiner for moderation. Final grades are determined at an examiners' meeting in November.

Marked assignments not handed back in class can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **11:00am and 3:00pm** 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 texts

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course.

Recommended reading

Supervisors will assist with advice on reading specific to your project.

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

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