



**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 2014**

### **Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 14 July to 16 November 2014

**Teaching dates:** 14 July to 17 October 2014

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 August to 7 September 2014

**Last assessment item due:** 15 October 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## **Class times and locations**

### **Lectures:**

Monday 10:00 - 10:50 in Maclaurin MCLT102

Wednesday 10:00 - 10:50 in Maclaurin MCLT101

### **Tutorials:**

Please sign up for a tutorial on S-Cubed.

There will be 9 tutorials for this course. Please register in a tutorial using S-Cubed; 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

## **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 and 3: Technology

Weeks 4 and 5: Fetishism

Weeks 6 to 8: Urban Life

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 least 7 of the 9 tutorials,
2. submit the two assignments, and
3. sit the in-class test.

## 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	Technology Essay, 1800-2000 words	35%	1, 2, 3	15 August
2	Research Essay, 2000 words	40%	1, 2, 3	3 October
3	In-Class test (1 hour)	25%	1, 2, 3	15 October

### Assessment One

#### **Technology Essay**

**Assignment weighting: 35%**

**Word Limit:** 1800-2000 words.

**Due:** 4pm, Friday, 15 August 2014, 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, 3 October 2014, 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:
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## Student feedback

ANTH 215 is a new course in 2014. You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course.

Information on Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## School Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013  
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