



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Sociology and Social Policy

SACS 201

Methods in Social and Cultural Research

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2014

Important dates

Trimester and teaching dates: 17 November – 19 December 2014

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

This course is taught by distance using Blackboard and V-streaming.

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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

A multi-disciplinary survey of key methodological approaches and methods employed by social science researchers. The course includes discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of qualitative and quantitative approaches, ethics and the practice of social and cultural research.

Course content

Week 1	1. The social context of research - ethics and research 2. Introduction to qualitative and quantitative research 3. Theory and research 4. Research design and the research process.
Week 2	1. Kaupapa Māori methodologies 2. Pasifika methodologies 3. Feminist methodologies 4. Questionnaires and surveys
Week 3	1. Interviews 2. Focus groups 3. Content and thematic analysis 4. Narrative and discourse analysis
Week 4	1. Unobtrusive methods 2. Ethnography 3. Visual methods 4. Mixed methods and action research
Week 5	1. Report writing 2. Conclusion

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- 1 demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of social research
- 2 demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between research and theory
- 3 demonstrate an understanding of research ethics

- 4 demonstrate an understanding of the principles of quantitative and qualitative research design
- 5 demonstrate an understanding of a range of research methods
- 6 demonstrate an understanding of data analysis, interpretation and presentation.

Teaching format

This delivery will be through Blackboard with lectures/presentations delivered via V-streaming.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- submit the social context exercise,
- sit the online test,
- submit the exercise in ethics.

Workload

University guidelines stipulate that a 20-point course should require 200 hours over a trimester, including class time, of student work. Because this course is being taught over five weeks, students should be prepared to commit a large amount of time to the course over the five weeks.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Social context exercise (1500 words)	40%	1,2	28 November
2 Online test (60 minutes)	20%	1,2,3,4,5,	7- 8 December
3 Research ethics exercise (1500 words)	40%	6,	19 December

This course is 100% internally assessed and requires three pieces of work (two assignments and one online test). All details about content of assessment items are on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

Both exercises must be submitted electronically through Turnitin and Blackboard by the due date. They will be marked and returned to you electronically with an approximate turnaround time of two weeks. The test will be completed online on between 7 – 8 December. It will be returned via Blackboard.

Instructions for Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

The two exercises must be submitted to Turnitin. To use it, go to www.turnitin.com, click on ‘create a user profile’ in the upper right corner. After creating an account, you can log in with your ID and password as with an e-mail account. Use the class ID and enrolment password to enrol in “Course ID”

Class ID: SACS201

Enrolment password: methods

When uploading submissions, be sure to click the final 'submit' button. If you have taken all the steps you will receive a notification/receipt.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments are due on the dates stated. If for some serious reason you don't think you can submit an essay in on time, email your course coordinator **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem. Extensions of time are not permitted except for illness, or bereavements.

Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There are no additional materials required for this course.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

The fieldwork for the Ethics exercise will be discussed in class and information on doing fieldwork is on Blackboard.

Set texts

There is no set text. All required readings for the course will be placed on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

A 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. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the 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
- 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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