



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 101

Foundations of Society and Culture

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Study week: 9 – 13 June 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 13 June to 2 July 2014

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 or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00-10:50am KK LT303

Tutorials: There will be 9 tutorials for this course. Tutorials meet weekly beginning in week two of the trimester. Tutorial times and names of tutors will be posted on Blackboard. Students must enrol via S-Cubed; instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Once you have committed to a particular tutorial time you cannot change unless discussed with the Head Tutor.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator Dr Lorena Gibson
Office: Level 10, Murphy Building, MY 1005
Phone: 04 463 6747
Email: lorena.gibson@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Mon 11am-12pm (or by appointment)

Head Tutor: To be advised.

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

Anthropology 101 introduces students to the subject through a focus on the nature and organisation of tribes, chiefdoms, states and the global system. An understanding of the social and cultural differences among societies of different scales is essential to both further study in Anthropology and an appreciation of world culture, history and geography.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

The objectives of ANTH 101 are to introduce students to the similarities and differences among societies and cultures of various scales and to complement our other introductory course, ANTH 102. On successful completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify and analyse fundamental ideas, concepts, and research practices of contemporary social and cultural anthropology;
2. Undertake research utilising an anthropological perspective and communicate your findings in verbal and written form;
3. Explain how different aspects of culture relate to one another and are integrated in a cultural system;
4. Critically discuss the relationship between culture and scale in societies around the world utilising a comparative perspective.

ANTH 101 combines with ANTH 102 to provide you with the material necessary to achieve a critical understanding of the concepts, methods, diversity and limitations of the ideas and practices involved in research in social and cultural anthropology. Successfully completing both courses will equip you with the background necessary to pursue further studies in anthropology.

Teaching format

This course combines lectures and films with interactive tutorials in a format designed to guide students through the major topic areas and encourage discussion. The emphasis is on collaborative learning through dialogue and active participation rather than passively listening to lectures. Lectures will utilise various forms of technology (Blackboard, Twitter) in order to encourage in-class participation so students are welcome to bring smartphones, iPads, netbooks or laptops to class.

Please note that while you are welcome to bring these devices to class, you are expected to use them solely for work related to ANTH 101 (e.g., taking notes, asking questions via Blackboard or Twitter). You will learn more if you concentrate on the lecture while you are present in the classroom. You should not use your device to check your email, visit social networking or media sites, or carry out activities unrelated to ANTH 101. Recent research has shown that students who multitask using laptops (and other devices) have reduced comprehension of lecture material, score lower on assignments than students who do not multitask, and distract fellow students, causing them to also score lower on assignments (see Blackboard for a link to this research).

Tutorial participation is a significant component of this course. Tutorials will involve interactive discussions with tutors and fellow students. Rather than summarising the reading or reviewing the lectures, during tutorials each group will engage in a collaborative task to help you learn to use the concepts presented and to prepare for the essay, group seminar and reflexive comment, and final exam (discussed below). Every member of the group is expected to prepare, attempt to participate, and be supportive of others' participation. This method helps students to clarify ideas and to engage with fundamental theories, concepts, and research practices of contemporary social and cultural anthropology.

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:

- * Sit the take-home test;
- * Make a short presentation to your tutorial group with your tutorial partners;
- * Submit the ethnographic essay (paper copy and electronic copy);
- * Participate in a group seminar and submit the reflexive comment (electronic copy only);
- * Sit the final examination; and
- * Attend a **minimum** of 7 of the 9 tutorials.

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 attending class (three lectures per week and one tutorial per week), reading and taking notes, interacting with Blackboard, working on your collaborative tutorial task, working on assignments, and preparing for the test and final examination. Obviously the time you spend on these activities will vary throughout the trimester and according to your individual study habits, but you might find the following useful in deciding how to allocate your time:

| Task | Estimated workload* |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Lecture attendance | 36 hours (3 hours per week) |
| Tutorial attendance..... | 9 hours (1 hour per week) |
| Assigned reading and notetaking..... | 35 hours |
| Interacting with Blackboard | 12 hours |
| Take-home test preparation | 10 hours |
| Collaborative Tutorial Task** (preparation, tutorial presentation, and contribution to your group's blog) | 10 hours |
| Ethnographic essay | 40 hours |
| Group seminar and reflexive comment | 8 hours |
| Final exam preparation..... | 40 hours |

*Based on an overall workload of 200 hours for ANTH 101.

**More information about the Collaborative Tutorial Task will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

Assessment

ANTH 101 will be assessed as follows:

| Assessment item | Due Date | % | CLO(s) |
|---|-------------------|-----|------------|
| Take-home test delivered via Blackboard (45 mins) | Fri 28 March, 4pm | 15% | 1, 3, 4 |
| Ethnographic essay (1500-1700 words) | Fri 16 May, 4pm | 35% | 1, 2, 4 |
| Group seminar (5 mins) and reflexive comment (1 pg) | Fri 30 May, 4pm | 10% | 1, 2, 3 |
| Final exam (2 hours) | To be advised | 40% | 1, 2, 3, 4 |

Take-home Test (45 mins; 15% of final grade)

The take-home test will cover course content to date and include multiple-choice style questions. The test will be delivered online via Blackboard. Instructions about how to access, sit and submit the test will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

Ethnographic Essay (1500-1700 words; 35% of final grade)

In tutorial groups you will be assigned to an area on a map of the world and a specific time period (e.g., eighteenth century) and collectively research and become experts on a real-world culture as you go through each week's lecture topics. You will each focus on different aspects of your culture so that as a tutorial group you build a full ethnographic description of it. In tutorials you will work in small groups with 3-4 fellow students and together you will be responsible for researching an aspect of the culture you are assigned (e.g., environment or social organisation). During the first tutorial you should acquaint yourself with your tutorial partners and discuss how you wish to communicate with one another.

While you will be working in small groups to research particular aspects of your culture, you will be individually assessed on your ethnographic essay (this is not a group mark). Your essay will be similar in content to the other members of your small group but **it must be your own work**.

Each student is required to write a short ethnographic essay on the particular aspect of culture you research, with specific attention to how it is integrated with its other aspects. The aspects you should focus on will be handed out in your first tutorial and available on Blackboard.

You will be responsible for the particular aspect of culture you sign up for in your first tutorial and this essay should be an on-going process of research and writing. For example, if you sign up for social organisation, you will be expected to do some background reading on this topic before your tutorial that week. Further information about where you could look for relevant background material will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

You are also expected to make a short 10-minute presentation with your tutorial partners on your aspect of culture in tutorial during the week it is discussed. The dates on which each aspect of culture will be discussed are listed in the Lecture and Tutorial Schedule available on Blackboard. **Your tutorial presentation is not assessed but it is a mandatory course requirement.** You will be able to develop your essay based on discussions with your tutorial partners and comments from your tutor and larger tutorial group. More information about tutorial presentations will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

Your essay will be a mini-ethnography discussing one particular aspect of the culture you collectively research. It should contain the following sections:

- Title
- An introduction that sets out your focus and main argument (max. 150 words)
- A short description of your culture in general terms (around 200 words)
- A thorough description and discussion of the particular aspect of culture you are focusing on (this will constitute the bulk of your essay and should develop key points to support your argument; around 700 words)
- A paragraph comparing your aspect of culture to other cultures from around the world (around 200 words)
- A concluding paragraph briefly explaining how the particular aspect of culture you are focusing on is integrated with the other aspects of your culture (around 300 words)
- Bibliography (not included in word count).

Your ethnographies will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Description and discussion of the particular aspect** – in this section you will demonstrate three things: (1) how well you have researched your aspect of culture; (2) your understanding of relevant key issues and concepts discussed in class; and (3) your ability to develop and present an argument that is supported with evidence from the literature you consulted as well as ideas from lecture notes and course readings.
- **Integration of culture** – the aspect of culture you describe and discuss must be integrated into the rest of the culture on which your group has become expert. Be sure that what you write accurately reflects the culture you are collectively researching. The concluding paragraph is your chance to defend what you have written as integrated with the other aspects your classmates are focusing on.
- **Research** – you should conduct some research into groups that have similar environments or characteristics as your culture and make comparisons to these groups to show that your argument is valid.
- **Creativity and insight** – this is the ‘something extra’ you add by thinking about the material in-depth and drawing on your own creativity and anthropological imagination.
- **Structure and style** – your essay should be well written. If you would like help with writing style we strongly encourage you to use Victoria’s Student Learning Support Service.

Further information about how to approach your ethnographic essay, as well as marking criteria and referencing style, will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

Group Seminar and Reflexive Comment (10% of final grade)

The group seminar and reflexive comment build on the work you and your fellow tutorial group members have done in becoming experts on a real-world culture. During lecture timeslots in Week 11 each tutorial group will present a 5 minute seminar with a maximum of 5 Power Point slides containing their key research findings. Your group has 5 minutes to give the audience a vivid sense of your culture and the time period specified. You do not all need to speak during your seminar but you must participate in collectively designing it – for example, you might nominate a few designated speakers and assign other roles (e.g. preparing a Power Point slide, choosing the key elements of culture, summarising the findings) to other tutorial group members.

These seminars, which are not assessed, will introduce you to all of the other cultures your classmates have become experts on. They will also help you prepare for the final exam as one of the essay questions will relate to the culture you have researched.

Following the seminars, you are required to complete an individual reflexive comment (which is assessed and is worth 10% of your final grade). This will be 1-page a short-answer questionnaire asking you to reflect on your group seminar and what you contributed to it, how your tutorial group worked together over the trimester, which seminar you thought was the most effective, and what you learned from this experience. Further information about the group seminars and individual reflexive comments will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

Final Examination (2 hours; 40% of final grade)

The exam will take place during the examinations period between 13 June and 2 July 2014. It will cover the course content (lectures, tutorials, readings and films) and include short answer and essay-type questions. The date and time of the examination will be advised in late April.

Submission and return of work

You must sit the **take-home test** online and submit it to Blackboard for assessment. Your test will be graded and your results will be posted to the MyGrades section of Blackboard.

You must submit your **ethnographic essay** in two ways (this is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted and that you are credited with timely submission):

1. Submit an electronic copy through Blackboard on or before 4pm on the due date. Your essay will be submitted to Turnitin via a link on Blackboard (see the link below for details on Turnitin).

AND

2. 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.

Your paper copy should include:

- A completed School Assignment Cover Sheet attached to the front.
- A printed receipt to show that you have submitted your assignment electronically to Turnitin via Blackboard.

Unless you follow this procedure the Programme will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in. **Students must keep a copy of every written assignment.**

Your ethnographic essay will be marked by your tutor and handed back to you in your tutorial in Week 12. Your grade will also be posted to the MyGrades section of Blackboard.

You must submit your **reflexive comment** online through Blackboard on or before 4pm on the due date. This will be marked electronically by your tutor and your grade will be posted to the MyGrades section of Blackboard before the final exam.

You must sit the **final exam** in person on the date specified. The exam will be graded by the course coordinator and your results will be posted to the MyGrades section of Blackboard.

Your final grade for this course will be posted on Student Records, accessible on myVictoria (<https://my.vuw.ac.nz>).

Assignment Cover Sheets

Your ethnographic essay must have a School Assignment Cover Sheet. A sample is included at the end of this Course Outline. Further copies can be found on the reception counter at the SACS Administration Office, and on the Assignment Box, on level 9 of Murphy Building.

Referencing Style

In the VUW Cultural Anthropology Programme all students must use the author-date format used by the American Anthropological Association (AAA). You will find a copy of the Cultural Anthropology Referencing Guidelines (with examples) on Blackboard.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension is possible for the ethnographic essay if you are having serious difficulties in completing it. You must do one of the following **before the due date**:

- To receive an extension of up to 4 days, you must talk to your tutor. He or she can grant short extensions after talking with you.
- For a longer extension, talk to the course coordinator, Lorena Gibson (but please note that Lorena only grants extensions for exceptional circumstances such as illness or some other serious misfortune, in which case you should contact her as soon as possible). You may need to present written justification, e.g. a medical certificate or death notice.

Penalties

In-class test

Students who do not sit and submit the take-home test within the allocated timeframe will need to provide a medical certificate or other documentation of the emergency/unavoidable circumstance that prevented them from completing it in order to sit a make-up and complete the course. You must contact Lorena within the test period, or the first working day after the test, in order to arrange a make-up. If you are aware of an unavoidable circumstance in advance, let the Head Tutor know as soon as possible.

Ethnographic essay

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 text

Bodley, John

2011 *Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System* (5th edition). Lanham: Alta Mira Press (ISBN 978-0-7591-1866-9).

Available from [vicbooks](#), Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus.

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 might like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

You will have an opportunity to participate in the formal evaluation of this course. Formal and informal student feedback on ANTH 101 has resulted in many improvements to 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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

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|--|---|
| Head of School: | Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Phone: 463 5676, Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz |
| International Student Liaison: | Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz |
| Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: | Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz |
| Students with Disabilities Liaison: | Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Phone: 463 9980, Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz |
| School Manager: | La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz |
| School Administrators: | Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677, Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz |
| School of Social and Cultural Studies: | www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/ |