



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

## Cultural Anthropology

# ANTH 408

## Ethnographic Research 30 POINTS

2014

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 3 March to 16 November 2014

**Teaching dates:** 3 March to 17 October 2014

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

**Mid-year break:** 3–13 July 2014

**Mid-trimester break 2/3:** 25 August to 7 September 2014

**Last assessment item due:** 17 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: Tuesday 9:00-11:50am, Von Zedlitz 710

## **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Lorena Gibson  
MY 1005, Level 10, Murphy Building  
Email: [lorena.gibson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lorena.gibson@vuw.ac.nz)  
Phone: (04) 463 6747  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00am-12:00pm

## **Communication of additional information**

Additional information relating to ANTH 408 will be provided in class, on Blackboard, or via email. Readings will be made available on Blackboard on a weekly basis. 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.

## **Course 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 Learning Objectives**

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. Practice some of the approaches, skills and techniques used by contemporary ethnographic researchers in their own fieldwork projects, with supervision.

## **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;
2. Submit a research proposal;
3. Submit a fieldwork report in oral and written form;
4. Submit the final essay.

## 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	%	CLO(s)
Research proposal	Friday 4 April	0%	1, 2
Seminar on ethnographic method	Tuesday 15 April	20%	1
Fieldwork report	Friday 8 August	20%	1, 2, 3
Final essay	Friday 17 October	60%	1, 2, 3

### Research proposal (mandatory but not assessed)

**Due: Friday 4 April 2014**

**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 15 April 2014. 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 informal seminar and distribute a select bibliography 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 8 August 2014. Oral presentation dates will be assigned in class.

After submitting your proposal and conducting fieldwork, you will prepare a 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.

### **Final Essay (60% of final grade)**

**Due:** Friday 17 October 2014

**Length:** 5,000 – 10,000 words depending on possible documentation of the fieldwork undertaken (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.

## **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 9<sup>th</sup> floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm** 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, Lorena Gibson, 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 text

There is no set text for this course. Readings will be made available on Blackboard on a weekly basis.

## 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 evaluation of this course. Student feedback on University courses can 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/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/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/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- 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/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## School Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013  
Phone: 463 5676, Email: [allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz)

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine, MY1023  
Phone: 463 6132, Email: [hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz)

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101  
Phone: 463 5432, Email: [trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz)

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120  
Phone: 463 9980, Email: [russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz)

School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918  
Phone: 463 6546, Email: [lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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](mailto:sacs@vuw.ac.nz)

School of Social and Cultural Studies: [www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/)