



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

# Cultural Anthropology

## ANTH 410

### Current Directions in Anthropological Thought

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:** 10 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**

Seminars: Friday 10:00am-12:50pm OK 301

## **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator Associate Professor Jeff Sissons  
MY1017, level 10 Murphy Building  
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Tel: (04) 463 6131  
Office Hours By appointment

## **Communication of Additional information**

Additional information will be provided during seminars.

## **Course Prescription**

The current direction in anthropological thought that will be explored in this year's course is the recent rethinking of the relationship between society and material culture. Rather than understanding material culture as products of human agency and thought the new anthropology is interested in ways in which it constructs and constrains that agency and thought. Topics to be considered will include the agency of buildings, fetishism, power and political materiality.

## **Course Content**

This course is inspired by what might be termed 'the Deleuzian turn' in anthropology; that is, an anthropology that is interested in the emergence of social life out of interminglings between people and things. Anthropology from this perspective has been defined by Tim Ingold as 'the study of human becomings as they unfold the weave of the world'. Ingold's work and that of Bruno Latour and Viveiros de Castro take seriously an ontology that refuses the Western separation of nature and culture. This refusal will be the focus of seminars in the first semester. In the second semester we will consider more deeply the thought of Deleuze and Guatarri, especially their inspirational work, *A Thousand Plateaus*, and assess its contribution to new directions in anthropological thought.

## **Course Learning Objectives**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Have developed a critical understanding of contemporary directions in anthropological thought that have been inspired by the writings of Tim Ingold, Bruno Latour, Viveiros De Castro and Deleuze and Guatarri.
2. Be able to use the above writings to frame an understanding a particular aspect of contemporary social life.

## Teaching Format

This course is structured around a set of readings that will be explored during weekly student-led seminars. In addition to your own reading and reflection, weekly seminars are the fundamental form of learning. The class will meet weekly in the first and second trimesters. The set of readings will serve as the basis for seminar discussions in the first trimester. In the second trimester each student will present a seminar on a chosen topic related to or inspired by the first trimester readings.

## Mandatory Course Requirements

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

- Attend all scheduled seminar discussions unless unable to attend through illness or an unforeseen emergency,
- lead seminar discussions and present a topic seminar, and
- submit essays by the due date.

## Workload

In accordance with guidelines from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the average workload for a 30-point course per week is 10 hours, or 300 hours across two trimesters. As a guideline, this could break down as follows:

Attending Seminars	3 hours/week
Reading for Seminars	3 hours/week
Reading for and writing assignments	4 hours/week

## Assessment

There will be two essays and a number of seminar presentations:

Assessment item	Word length	CLOs	% of final grade	Due date
Essay One	3,000-3,500	1, 2	50%	20 June 2014
Essay Two	4,000	1, 2	50%	10 October 2014

The topic for the first essay will be handed out in class. The second essay will be on a topic agreed upon between the student and course coordinator.

## Submission and return of work

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm on the due date, all work is date-stamped, its receipt recorded, and then handed on to the appropriate markers. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within three weeks of the due date. 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**

If you wish to seek an extension please contact the Course Coordinator **before** the due date of the assessment item. The granting of extensions is at the discretion of the Course Coordinator.

### **Penalties**

Penalties will apply for lateness in presenting assignments. Unless an extension has been approved beforehand or a medical certificate is later presented 5% will be deducted from the marks for each day that the assignment is late (counting that piece of work as 100%).

### **Set text**

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. Copies of the set of readings for the trimester one will be made available on closed reserve in the library (books) or from the 9th floor office (articles).

### **Recommended reading**

Ingold, T. 2011. Being Alive: Essay on Movement, Knowledge and Description.

Ingold T. 2007. Lines a Brief History.

Latour, B. 1993. We Have Never Been Modern.

Vivieros de Castro, E. 1998. 'Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism', JRAI 4(3): 469-488.

### **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**

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](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

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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023

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Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101

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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

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School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

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School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921,

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