

Anthro 738

2019

COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

All coursework **MUST**

- **Be submitted via Turnitin (www.Turnitin.com):** not via Canvas and no emailed or hard-copy submission.
Class Name: Anthro738 2019
Class Number: 21663697
Enrolment Key: 738...2019
- **Include the course coversheet**, which you can find on Canvas (738Coversheet2019.docx), correctly completed and cut and pasted into the front of your assignment.
- Conform to the **Anthropology Guide to Essay Writing** on referencing and presentation matters. In particular, note:
 - Double line-spacing
 - In-text-referencing only
 - Margins min. 2.5 cm all sides
 - Non-sexist language
 - Adequate proof-reading

At this stage in your careers you should be able to present your work professionally: **up to 5 marks/assignment may be deducted** for inadequate formatting, referencing and proofing.
- all www materials must be approved in advance (NB: www, not scholarly digital sources). Wikipedia is, of course, banned.
- You may not undertake your own archival or ethnographic research or interviews or draw upon family or friends for information. I.e., you may use scholarly sources only.

Late Work, Missed Seminars:

Late work submitted without prior agreement will be penalized 1 point (i.e., 1% of your final grade) for every late day or part thereof. Participation grades will be penalized for missed seminars.

All other late coursework, including work with extensions or negotiated deadlines, will be graded at my convenience and may be returned without comment.

Negotiated Deadlines & Extensions

Presentations/Seminar leading: There are **no extensions or negotiated deadlines**. Contact me in Week One if you are unable to do the presentation in the week currently allocated to you and explain why. NOTE: no changes solely because of topical preference.

Negotiated Deadlines: I am happy to negotiate deadlines for the proposal, essay and review if it will help you to manage your workload and personal obligations (weddings, etc.): you

should check your Calendars and plan out your workload in the first week of semester. I encourage you to take advantage of my willingness to negotiate coursework dates, rather than making last-minute appeals, which are unprofessional and unfair to me and your fellow students.

Extensions: You must **email** extension requests, clearly identifying the course and the nature of your message in the subject line, as early as possible, providing appropriate medical or other evidence. Self-reporting is insufficient. Extensions are not a matter of right, no matter how valid your requests. They affect teaching staffs' ability to meet their other responsibilities and sometimes we simply cannot grant a request.

Late proposals are not grounds for extensions on the essay-proper.

Course Non-Completion; Coursework Non-Submission

Occasionally things just don't work out. In such cases, you could try applying for aegrotat or compassionate consideration for individual pieces of coursework, provided you have solid grounds for which you can provide evidence to the university:

https://uoa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/11028/kw/consideration%20for%20coursework. Or, if you find yourself unable to remain in the course after the two-week deadline for amending enrolment and have solid reasons for this, you may be eligible for a late deletion:

https://uoa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1464. I can sometimes assist, particularly if you have kept in touch with me during the course.

Student Conduct & Integrity

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting his or her learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the world-wide web. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against electronic source material using computerised detection mechanisms. Upon reasonable request, students may be required to provide an electronic version of their work for computerised review.

No marks will be granted for plagiarised work and serious disciplinary procedures may ensue.

As graduate students, you will be aware that plagiarism and others forms of cheating are unacceptable and penalties will reflect these expectations. If you are unsure of referencing requirements and ethical coursework procedures, you should urgently take measures to learn them. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

1. Participation (10%)

Reminder: No laptops, i-pads, etc.. These impede communication with others and interfere with your own participation. Bring your readings and notes in hard copy.

Your informed, thoughtful participation is vital for your own and others' understanding and our goal is to develop fruitful group discussion of relevant issues. These seminars are *not* competitive and you should work with, rather than against, each other.

Participation quality and grades do not reflect how much you speak. Quiet participants are often thoughtful and insightful. Dominant speakers often do not have the greatest understanding and risk suppressing others' insights and styles. Listening to, and thinking about others' thoughts, is at least as important as conveying your own ideas. Nonetheless, you must join in discussion in order to pass this component. Students who dominate discussions may be asked to curb their exuberance to let others speak, just as those who are too quiet will be prompted to participate. Confident participants should do their best to support others.

Participation grades will be adjusted to reflect absences and attendance without participation.

You should not be leaving your reading and note-taking to the last minute. So, **if you genuinely cannot attend, email your summary of and comments on the readings and 2 – 3 discussion questions before the seminar.**

In assessing participation I consider:

- Demonstrated understanding of the readings, themes and class discussion.
- Preparedness
- Ability to follow and develop themes across the course
- Effort and ability to articulate your ideas
- Effort and ability to foster and promote good discussion, raising ideas, productive questions, helping to elaborate others' thoughts, etc.
- Appropriate engagement and collegial willingness to work with others.
- Genuine effort in material sent to compensate for missed classes.

Note that demonstrating your capacity for criticism is not the point. We are focusing on understanding, getting on top of some issues, considering where authors are coming from and how they go about addressing their concerns. Critical thought has its place in the sense of appreciative criticism or critical appreciation, but you need to be on top of work before you judge it. Accordingly, I expect to see your opinions grounded in a generous reading of the materials and understanding of the issues under consideration.

2. Seminar Leadership & Write-Up 20%

Your seminar leadership/presentation dates are allocated. Please check these carefully at the beginning of semester, and let me know ASAP if there is a problem with your allocated dates, explaining the issue. I will not amend the schedule according to your particular interests or field of expertise, but I will try to take account of personal circumstances, including personal obligations or major deadlines for other courses.

For obvious reasons, there are no extensions on your presentation.

You will lead the discussion in approximately the first hour of the seminar in the week allocated to you.

- (A) You should begin with **5 – 10 minutes of introductory remarks** that bring out the key themes, the author's approach and arguments and any conceptual questions you see arising from them. As the course progresses, you should also try and relate the week's readings to earlier course readings and discussions. Note that in introducing the ethnography you should not be critical. The initial aim is to highlight *the author and what they are doing*.

Following your introduction, you should **introduce points for discussion to the group, solicit your colleagues' thoughts about the readings and generally facilitate discussion**, trying to bring everyone into the conversation. Critical responses to the readings can be raised in this part of the class, once we have given sufficient time to what the author is trying to do.

- (B) **Write up the session**, drawing on your understanding of the readings and relevant discussion points that arise during the seminar, acknowledging the thoughts of your colleagues. The write-up should be approx. 1000 words (+/- 10%). **The absolutely final deadline for this is Tuesday 29th October**, but I strongly encourage you to do it shortly after your seminar while your memories are fresh.

3. Essay 40%

This includes a proposal for an essay topic of your own choice (10%) and the completed essay, which should take account of my remarks on your proposal (30%). NOTE:

- Proposals will be graded and returned in order of receipt.
- I am happy to discuss your strategies for dealing with my comments on your proposal on one occasion.
- Those who do not submit a proposal may nonetheless do an essay, but should not expect me to help them develop their topic.

Part A: Proposal (10%)

Due 4 pm 15th August

This is intended to help you gain a better grade and will be **marked generously**, provided it is on time and shows a good-faith effort at preparation.

The proposal itself should be between 500 – 800 words (+/- 10%), exclusive of proposed references. This is to be **conceptually, rather than descriptively, focused**. In other words, it should address ideas, questions, debates about anthropological topics in Islam. Where you wish to focus on a particular event (e.g., the Gulf War) or place (e.g., The Solomon Islands), this must be treated as a case history for your analytical questions.

In addition, you should list at least 7 (no more than 10) relevant academic items that you propose to use for your essay, providing full bibliographic information for each. Do not include materials from the course outline. There is no need read your proposed sources closely at this point, but you need to have spent enough time on your research and to have paid sufficient attention to their content to have a sense of how they will contribute to your essay. You are far better off using journal articles or specific chapters in edited books than full volumes.

You should **draw on sources beyond those directly addressing your case studies** (e.g., if your question was about the nature of religious conversion and you were focusing on the Solomons, I would expect to see you using scholars who worked on conversion in other places as well as the Solomons).

Outline and justify the topic you wish to pursue, phrasing it in terms of a question or problem to be investigated. Think about things like: Why this is topic of interest to Islam as a world religion. Its implications. The kinds of approach/es that will inform your

thinking essay. How scholars have raised or addressed issues that interest you. The basis on which you will analyze the material. Debates in the field. Etc., etc., etc.

I have **uploaded an example of an A+ essay proposal** from a former member of this class, including feedback, so you can get an idea of the kind of thing I am looking for. (You may not submit a proposal on the same topic.) I will do my best to provide feedback that will help you with your essay but note that better the proposal, the better the feedback is likely to be.

Part B: Essay Proper (30%):

Due: 4 pm 26th September

Write an essay on a topic I have approved. Your essay should be c.3000 words (+/- 10%) and build upon, rather than repeating or paraphrasing, your proposal. While this course is interdisciplinary, I expect you to demonstrate anthropological insight as conveyed in this course. You are welcome to draw upon course materials, but should also use at least eight other references of anthropological value. I strongly advise that you take account of my comments on the sources listed in your proposal.

4. Book Review 30%

4 pm 24th October

Write a 1500 word (+/- 10%) review of **either** Abdulla, *Black Mecca*, Mernissi, *Beyond the Veil* or Hirschkind, *The Ethical Soundscape*. Do **not** evaluate on the basis of the author's writing style or clarity. Do **not** evaluate on the basis of empirical validity.

If you are taking this course for a programme in Gender Studies, you should review Mernissi.

Your review must include a **at least 5** relevant independently researched anthropological materials, exclusive of book reviews. You are welcome to draw upon 1 – 2 **academic reviews** of the book, but these must clearly be acknowledged in the body of your review and may not provide the bulk of your own review. You should also draw upon **relevant class discussions** and reference these appropriately—e.g. (Seminar 1/1/17)—including crediting individuals—e.g. (Sally 1/1/17). Feel free to run your ideas for review materials past me.

The most important components of the review are:

- An **outline of the main themes**. This is a vital foundation and if you do not take care with it, your review will be weak. Ask yourself, what **issues** the author(s) are dealing with and how they convey them.
- An outline of the author's **argument** and how, and how well, they have addressed the **relevant themes**. Think about these in selecting your references.
- Demonstrated **understanding of the book in its entirety**. Do not just outline the chapters and gloss their topics. Explain the book as a whole: what the author thinks and your own understanding of the phenomenon under discussion (e.g., debates about the significance of exchange, questions of exploitation, the nature of violence, the nature of resistance, etc., etc., etc.).
- Your **assessment and your justification** of it.
 - Your response should be substantial. It is insufficient to add a couple of comments at the end.
 - You should demonstrate your understanding of issues, approaches and understandings covered in this course and appropriate anthropological

knowledge (I will make some allowance for those with no anthropological background).

- Your review is not a matter of empirical description or, except where it is a key issue in the text, of methodology or coverage. It is about how well the volume contributes to understanding a phenomenon. For example: How convincing is the author and why do you say so? What useful ideas do they provide? How does the work help you to reflect upon or understand the phenomenon? How does their theoretical approach facilitate, constrain, etc., their argument? It is a very good idea to draw upon our discussions as well as published materials.

- The **quality of your review** in the sense of showing a thoughtful, careful, balanced response. Good critical work may entail strong or even strident criticism, but it usually does not. Critical thought refers to an ability to evaluate, not to how well you can pull them apart. Bear in mind that all scholarship addresses some particular aspects of a situation, which necessarily forecloses on others. So be *very careful* before calling for coverage of XYZ.
- The quality of your research and your use of researched materials. These should be selected to help you understand the broad topic (e.g., Islam and Media) as covered in anthropology, explain the volume and to justify your evaluations.