



**V-SAK 26/24: Endring av eksamen, obligatoriske aktiviteter og pensum i
SOSANT2000 Central themes in contemporary anthropology**

Saken legges frem for Programrådet:

- ☒ Til behandling
- ☐ Til orientering
- ☐ Til diskusjon
- ☐ Til uttalelse

Forslagsstillere: Emneansvarlig våren 2025: Elina Hartikainen og Alessandro Rippa

FORSLAG

We are proposing 1) a change to compulsory activities and the exam format of the course, and hence a rewording of the description of compulsory activities and exam in course description, and 2) minor changes to course readings in Weeks 7-9.

Change to compulsory activities and exam format for the course

We propose to change the exam format of the course from a compilation of 3 reflection essays (500 words each) to a take-home exam essay (2500-3500 words) that is separate from reflection essays written during the course. To account for the additional workload for students created by the writing of a separate exam, we propose reducing the number of reflection essays to be submitted during the course from the current 5 to 3.



The proposed change responds to student requests to a) be provided with an opportunity to engage course readings in a long form writing task in addition to the short form of reflection essays, and b) avoid problems created by potential differences in feedback offered on reflection essays by seminar leaders and the grading of final essays, which is often done at least partly by people who are not familiar with how students have been asked to revise their essays for the final exam. This past semester a few students found the feedback they had received on their reflection essays and the feedback they received on the compilations they submitted for their final exams to be inconsistent.

To this end, we propose changing the course description as follows (changes highlighted in yellow).

Compulsory elements

- Summary papers of around 500 words before the seminars. Minimum requirement: submission of 3 summary papers in Canvas by the announced deadlines.
- At least one oral presentation in class or by uploaded recording.

Summary papers and oral presentation will be assessed as 'Approved/Not approved'. Students must have their summary papers and oral presentation approved in order to sit for the exam.

Examination

- Students are graded on the basis of a take-home exam. The exam paper must be minimum 2500 words and maximum 3500 words including cover page and foot- or endnotes.



Changes to course readings in Weeks 7-9

We propose to change some of the required readings for Weeks 7-9. In practice, most of the proposed “new” readings, are readings that were recommended to students as “supplementary” in Spring 2024, while most of the readings that we propose be removed from required readings will now be moved to the list of supplementary readings. In this course, students are asked to read at least one of the supplementary readings each week in addition to the required “core readings.” Students may engage both core and supplementary readings in their reflection essays and exam essays.

All the proposed changes concern readings that were added to the course reading list last year. They respond to one the instructor’s (Elina) experiences with teaching the material and assessment of students’ engagement with it. The proposed changes will help ease students’ introduction to and understanding of the themes discussed in these weeks by offering a list of core readings that a) more explicitly highlights key questions and problems, b) is more accessible to students, and c) that students in the past year’s course found to be especially exciting and engaging.

Please note that all new texts are highlighted in **yellow**. At the end we have added a list of removed texts highlighted in **red**.

7. Persons, Subjects, and Selves (March 8, 2024)

Lamoreaux, Janelle. 2016. “What If the Environment Is a Person? Lineages of Epigenetic Science in a Toxic China.” *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (2): 188–214.

O’Neill, Kevin Lewis. 2013. “Left behind: Security, Salvation, and the Subject of Prevention.” *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (2): 204–26.

8. Media and Publics (March 8, 2024)

Bryan, Austin. 2019. “Kuchu Activism, Queer Sex-Work and ‘Lavender Marriages,’ in Uganda’s Virtual LGBT Safe(r) Spaces.” *Journal of East African Studies* 13 (1): 90–105.



Bonilla, Yarimar, and Jonathan Rosa. 2015. "#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States." *American Ethnologist* 42 (1): 4–17.

9. Bureaucracy (March 19, 2024)

Richard, Analiese M. 2021. "'Countering Documents with Documents': The Politics of Independent Environmental Auditing in Mexico." *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 44 (2): 223–39.

Mathur, Nayanika. 2014. "The Reign of Terror of the Big Cat: Bureaucracy and the Mediation of Social Times in the Indian Himalaya." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 20 (S1): 148–65.

REMOVED TEXTS

Fernando, Mayanthi L. 2010. "Reconfiguring Freedom: Muslim Piety and the Limits of Secular Law and Public Discourse in France." *American Ethnologist* 37 (1): 19–35.

Cody, Francis. 2009. "Daily Wires and Daily Blossoms: Cultivating Regimes of Circulation in Tamil India's Newspaper Revolution." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 19 (2): 286–309.

Graan, Andrew. 2022. "Marketing Logics and the Politics of Public Spheres: On Discursive Engineering and Enclosure." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 32 (2): 301–25.

Lea, Tess. 2021. "Desiring Bureaucracy." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 50: 59–74.

Bernstein, Anya. 2017. "Bureaucratic Speech: Language Choice and Democratic Identity in the Taipei Bureaucracy." *PoLAR* 40 (1): 28–51.