Research in Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies 191, Fall 2006                    SSB 253, Wed. 9AM-11:50
Professor Ross Frank                          Phone: (858) 534-6646
Hours: Tuesday 10AM-noon                      Office: SSB 227
         Wednesday 1-3 PM & by appt.             
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Course materials available at: http://weber.ucsd.edu/~rfrank

Course Description

*Undergraduate Research in Ethnic Studies* (ES 191), focuses on building the skills and techniques that will enable you to move from consumers to producers of knowledge. During this course we will work through each stage of designing a research project: defining a topic area; mastering the relevant literature; honing the topic area into a research subject; developing generative research questions; and selecting appropriate methods and materials to best address those questions.

You will learn by designing a research proposal which will become a roadmap that will guide you through your Honors research project. Along the way you will use and develop critical and analytical skills that will help you to work through the common pitfalls involved in designing a research project. You will be aided by reading exemplar proposals and selected publications, and engaging in conversation with fellow Honors students and with guests who will present their research projects and discuss research design methodology.

The course objectives are:

- to produce a formal Honors project prospectus; and
- to develop a working relationship with a faculty mentor who will oversee and guide your work through ETHN 192 and 193 (Winter and Spring quarters).

Successful research projects will earn “Honors in Ethnic Studies” upon graduation.

Student Responsibilities

A written (typed) assignment will be due each week at the beginning of class, as described below. One late assignment is allowed during the quarter, and it must be placed in my mailbox or e-mailed to me by 10AM the following Monday morning. Attendance during class meetings is mandatory.

The grade for this course will be cumulative and assigned based on the level of your effort in the course, your participation in class meetings, and the final form of your Prospectus, as follows:

50% = class attendance, participation, and written assignments;
50% = final research prospectus.
Booklist

The following required texts are available at Groundwork:

Class Schedule

Week 1 September 27 Introduction & Planning
Selecting a topic
Choosing a mentor
Beginning to plan a research project
Assignment: Make an appointment with me to meet before our Week 2 meeting.

Week 2 October 4: Research Proposal Guidelines; Topic feasibility and scope
Discuss research topic ideas
Library resources meeting with Alanna Aiko Moore
Asking the best questions of your research subject
Discussion of topic areas; preparing an annotated bibliography
Assignment: 1) Brief description of your research topic. 2) Bring copies of the description to class.

Week 3 October 11 Research Reports and Discussion
Choosing and mixing methodologies to address a research question
Reading strategies
Working well with your mentor
Research design and methodology I: Professor Lisa Park, qualitative data
Collection and analysis
Assignment: 1) Preliminary annotated bibliography; 2) preliminary outline for Prospectus; 3) e-mail your updated research topic description to Alanna Aiko Moore (Ethnic Studies bibliographer) by e-mail (aamore@library.ucsd.edu).

Week 4 October 18 Library Resources meeting
NOTE: This class will meet at Geisel Library Electronic Classroom (LEC), across from the bank of library access terminals to the left of the entrance.

Hands on library work with Alanna Aiko Moore
Writing a review of literature (historical context, recent studies, useful theory)
Assignment: 1) Revised annotated bibliography; 2) detailed outline of lit. review.
Week 5  October 25       Research Reports and Discussion

Protecting Human Subjects
Writing strategies
Research design and methodology II: Ramón Gutiérrez, historical methods
Assignment: 1) Literature review; 2) discussion of proposed methodology/ies; 3) complete online IRB course and bring certificate to class.

Week 6  November 1:     Research Reports and Discussion

Class research updates (brief presentations of project shape and major issues)
Research design and methodology III: Professor Wayne Yang, ethnography, education, and youth culture
Assignment: First draft of research prospectus. Please make a paper copy for each member of the class for distribution.

Week 7  November 8      Research Reports and Discussion

Revising strategies
Research design and methodology IV: TBA
Assignment: Critique, comments, and suggestions of first-draft proposals to be distributed in class.

Week 8  November 15: First Drafts I - Presentation and Critique

First draft presentations (part one)
Assignment: 1) Make an appointment to meet with me during the week; 2) revisions and another iteration of critiques and comments.

Week 9  November 22: First Drafts II - Presentation and Critique

First draft presentations (part two)
Assignment: Revise! Revise! Revise!

Week 10  November 29   Looking ahead at the Honors paper

Developing the project: managing research and writing effectively.
Assignment: 1) Final Prospectus due; 2) Human Subjects submission (if needed).