Ethnic Studies 289: Methods 1: Historical Methods

Fall Quarter 2008

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Course objectives: This course has three goals: 1) We will read historical monographs and examine how these authors have used historical methods but also read them through Ethnic Studies lenses. 2) We will seek to understand the techniques and tools historians use in creating a historical narrative. We will take these historical tools and pair them with our Ethnic Studies lenses. We will look at how to find and choose sources, how to read them, and how to piece them together to create a narrative. 3) As such, you will produce your own abbreviated research papers (15 pages). The course is too short to expect an article length research paper. Instead, you will be expected to produce a primary source based-paper that examines a well-defined topic and provide contextualization for that topic.

In addition to the course readings, students should expect to spend at least 3-4 hours weekly on library research and electronic database searches and 7-8 hours on weeks when reading is not assigned. Beginning week 3, students share their research goals for the week in class and provide an update the next week of their progress. This is an exercise in creating a game-plan for your research, as well as setting small, realizable goals.

Your final paper is a chance to work with primary sources. It is not a prospectus. It is not a fully-developed research paper. It is an abbreviated and thoughtful research paper. That being said, your final paper should include:

• Your research question and an explanation of how this has (or has not) been looked at in the literature thus requiring an overview of the literature.
• A discussion of your methodology, how and why you chose your primary sources, and your analysis of your sources.

In addition, in order to facilitate discussion, I would like all students to present at least one oral report during the quarter. “Oral report” does not mean an exhaustive analysis of a text but a short (5-10 minutes) summary of the principle arguments, followed by some questions that you would like the class to discuss. I will solicit volunteers each week to help in this effort.

For those of you are not giving an oral report on a given day, bring a short response to the readings to class. Papers should include talking points, questions you had while doing the readings, and questions for the class.

Course requirements:
To develop an archival-based response paper using the research skills we learned in weeks two and three and couched in the readings and discussions (6-7 pages). **Due October 28.**

To develop a longer (15 pages) research paper out of the research skills we learned in weeks two and three and bringing in the readings and discussions from the course.

To develop a primary source bibliography which explains 1) where you are finding your primary sources and 2) what the strengths and potential weaknesses of those sources are 3) include a section on secondary sources on your topic and discuss the primary sources you can mine from these sources. You can think of this as part progress report/part game-plan. **Due November 18**

Facilitate a class discussion on the readings paying special attention to how we read sources and methodologies.

**Books:**


Books are available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625).

The articles and book chapters are on e-reserves.

**September 30, Week 1: Archives as knowledge production**


**October 7, Week 2: Research Fundamentals with Alanna Aiko Moore, Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies Librarian, in Library Classroom 1/Room 274**

We will develop a list of resources that are suitable for our research including using dissertations as resources, navigating websites, using government documents.


**October 14, Week 3:** Special Collections and Archives with Lynda Claassen, Head of Mandeville Special Collections Library, in Mandeville Special Collections Library.

How do we begin research? How do we identify archives?


**Week 4, October 21:**

**Week 5, October 28: Writing the Range: Sources and Categories**


**Guest Speaker:** Nayan Shah

**First Paper due**

**Week 6, November 4: Re-working the Boundaries of a Field**

* Please access these articles on-line

Special Issue of the *Pacific Historical Review* Nov 2007, Vol. 76, No. 4: Asian American History in Transnational Perspective


Week 7, November 11: No Class
Please schedule a one-on-one meeting with Alanna Aiko Moore for this week so that you can fine-tune your searches.

Week 8, November 18:

Guest Speaker: Luis Alvarez

Week 9, November 25: Bibliographic Software Management Systems, with Alanna Aiko Moore, Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies Librarian, in Library Classroom 1/Room 274

Week 10, December 2: Presentations of primary sources and analysis to the class.

Finals Week- Papers Due

Suggestions for Further Readings:

On Archives


