Research Methods

Studying Racial and Ethnic Communities?
Ethnic Studies 190 / Urban Studies & Planning 129, Fall 2010
kwayne.tumblr.com

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Th 2 - 3:30
Cross Cultural Center or by Appt.

Th 1 – 2:30
Cross Cultural Center

Th 12 – 1:30
Cross Cultural Center

Note: The first 30 min of our office hours are drop-in, and then we will have a sign-up sheet for the remaining 1 hour.

Wed 8-9:30 pm collective office hours …………………………….. All of us can be found @ Roundtable Pizza

For wisdom about life, help with enrollment issues, details on majoring/minoring, love & general 411:
Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Advisor, 858-534-3277, yescamilla@ucsd.edu

Lecture Wednesdays 5:00-7:50 p.m., Pepper Canyon Hall 122

Section Day Time Room ETHN USP TA
A01 Th 2:00p - 2:50p SSB 103 689676 690310 Candice Rice
A02 Th 3:00p - 3:50p SSB 103 689677 690311 Candice Rice
A03 W 1:00p - 1:50p SSB 102 689678 690312 Angela Morrill
A04 W 2:00p - 2:50p SSB 102 689679 690313 Angela Morrill

Final Exam: Thursday, Dec 9, 7 – 10 p.m., Cross Cultural Center

Course Description

Traditionally, social science scholarship has more than often served to characterize the racial, sexual, linguistic, and cultural Other as a deviant object of fetish, fantasy, and fear (Said, 1978). This is especially apparent in the many scholarly depictions of U.S. urban communities – “most reduce it expressions of pathology, compensatory behavior, or creative ‘coping mechanisms’ to deal with racism and poverty” (Kelley, 1997, p.17). Even when intended to bring needed resources to, or to shed light on injustices faced by communities, “the research on our communities has historically been damage centered, intent on portraying our neighborhoods and tribes as defeated and broken” (Tuck, 2009, p.412). This course takes a critical view of these traditions, especially the methodologies and theories through which researchers position themselves as ‘objective’ and ‘scientific’. Ironically, this course also trains students in the same research methods that we critique. Therefore students must develop their skills in three areas at the same time: (1) research techniques, (2) research ethics, and (3) theories of ‘urban’ space.

Although the overarching goals of this course is to give students some practical training in fieldwork, i.e. qualitative research methods in community settings (fieldnotes, interviews, surveys, data coding, cataloging artifacts, etc.), students are expected to engage their research from a strong theoretical framework, and from an even stronger ethical stance. Towards this end the readings in the course will focus on research ethics and theories of urban space. Furthermore, assignments will develop skills relevant for professional community researchers as well as encourage artistic representations of theory, politics, and ordinary life.

This year’s course will revolve around the theme: Everyday Acts of Regeneration.
**Required Book:** *Kindred* by Octavia Butler (any edition)

**Other Readings:** Provided electronically on WebCT.
- I recommend that you download ALL the readings in the first week of the quarter.
- Always print and bring the readings for the current week and all past weeks to class.


**Course materials and expenses ($$$)**

**Basic equipment & supplies**
1. Digital camera
2. Audio recorder – capable of at least 10 minutes of recording
3. Microsoft PowerPoint & Excel
4. Facebook and Tumblr accounts
5. Fieldnotes journal
6. 1” 3-Ring binder with plastic sleeves to hold artifacts
7. Box for your archive

**Major expenses**
1. Transportation to/from community research site
2. Art materials
3. Research supplies: Fieldnotes journal, binder with inserts to hold artifacts, archive box
4. Professionally printed research poster or Art show costs (estimate $20-$70)
5. Any donations for reception for final research conference and art show.
Assignments and Grading

This is not a class for the passive. In this course, you are required to produce. Be prepared to read, write, and study as if lives depended on it.

Section grade – 20% - Attendance is critical! Your section is your research support home.

Art/Theory Assignments – 20%
- Photo/collage projects with 1 page written response. Uploaded to your section’s FB wall. Lowest grade dropped. 5 assignments. 3 pts + 2 pts for leaving comments.

Theories of Space Art Project – 10% (midterm)
- Mixed-media art project that applies theories of space to your research site. 2-page write-up. You may build off of the Art/Theory assignments.

Methodology Statement – 10% (midterm)
- You choose an article to read about methodology, and then write an essay describing your own methodology.

Research Blog & Archive – 25%
You will create a research blog & digital archive on Tumblr. The 10 FW (Fieldwork) assignments comprise the blog. You will also have a physical archive.
- Weekly FW assignments: site description, research questions, fieldnotes, artifacts, transcriptions, surveys, researcher ethics, photos, maps, interviews, transcriptions
- Physical Archive: Box and binder of artifacts, and catalog

Final – 15%
Option A: Professional Research Poster & Conference Presentation
- Additional options: Grant, PAR project, scholarship application, Panel

Option B: Juried Art Exhibition – by application only
- Artists are responsible for artist statements, gallery installation/deinstallation, and reception. Artists should not be on the curatorial committee.
- Curatorial committee is responsible for jury selection, gallery planning, exhibition & reception management and catalogue notes. Curators should not submit artwork.

Attendance & Participation – (up to negative 100%)
This course demands perfect attendance! In class discussion, I expect democratic participation that involves careful listening as well as speaking thoughtfully. Because everyone participates differently, it is fine if some people speak often, and others speak infrequently. However it is possible to over-participate, dominating the discussion without listening. It is also possible to be risk-averse, and not speak enough out of a sense of insecurity. Both of these will result in a lower participation grade.

My basic system is to give you a 0 or up to -5% each class.
0 = Student actively listens, and seeks to contribute to class discussion or group work.
-1% = Student often does not listen to others, or is often passive when opportunities arise to participate in class discussion and group work.
-2% = Student is late
-5% = Student is absent
+- = In special circumstances, I may add or subtract additional percentage points.
Calendar

1st Week – Epistemology and the Gaze: Introduction to Race, Space, and Research

Within Our Gates (Film, 1920, Oscar Micheaux)
Friday, October 01, 2010 at 3:00 PM, Geisel Library, Seuss Room

1st Annual Ethnic Studies Conference, “Honoring Our Communities, Building Our Futures”
Friday (5-9pm) & Saturday (8:30-5:30, October 1-2, 2010. San Diego Mesa College, G101

2nd Week – The Researcher Gaze

Reading due
- *Maquilapolis City of factories* [DVD on reserve at UCSD library]

Assignments due
1. The Gaze – A/T assignment #1
2. 3 Space-times – FW assignment #1
3. Friend us on Facebook

3rd Week – Space as Racialized

Reading
- *Kindred* – please finish reading by 3rd lecture. We will discuss it over the next 3 weeks.

Assignments due
4. Black/White Spatial Imaginary – A/T assignment #2
5. Fieldnote entry – FW assignment #2
6. Create Research Blog on Tumblr
7. Research Support Groups selected (in section)

4th Week – Space as Sexualized

Reading
- *Kindred*

Assignments due
8. Gendered Space – A/T assignment #3
9. Fieldnote entry – FW assignment #3

“Reel Injun”. Cross-Cultural Center Social Justice L.E.N.S. Film Series
Thursday, October 21, 12:00pm, Discussion to follow film Cross-Cultural Center Comunidad

YELLOW FACE performance followed by talk-backs with playwright David Henry Hwang.
Friday, October 22, 7:30 PM & Sunday, October 24, 2:00 PM
Mo`olelo at The 10th Avenue Theatre, 930 10th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments due</th>
<th>Before Next Lecture</th>
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| 5th    | Space as Haunted                           | • *Kindred*                                                            | 10. Haunted Space – A/T assignment #4  
11. Artifact description – FW assignment #4  
12. Curatorial Committee Bids due | Curatorial Committee will be informed by email/phone                                                      |
14. Theories of Space: Mixed-media Art Project (midterm due)  
15. Art Exhibition Submissions Due (optional, part of midterm) | Curatorial Committee meets with Jury. SSB 103.                                                               |
| 7th    | Research Proposals & Methodology Statements due | • Your choice of methodology statements (on WebCT)                     | 16. Research proposal – FW Assignment #5  
17. Methodology Statement (midterm due)  
18. Jury Decisions for Art Exhibition announced in class (Curatorial Committee only) |                                                                                  |
| 8th    | Fieldwork Journals and Archives Due        | • Space-time mappings – FW Assignment #6  
• Interview questions – FW Assignment #7  
• Survey questions – FW Assignment #8 |                                                                                                           |                                                                                  |
|        |                                            |                                                                        |                                                                                                           |                                                                                  |
|        |                                            |                                                                        |                                                                                                           |                                                                                  |

Native American identity, gender, sexuality, and other intersecting identities  
Campus Community Center’s Social Justice Reading Circle  
Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 12:00pm, Cross-Cultural Center Library

Friday, November 5. 20th Anniversary of UCSD Ethnic Studies

Gordon Johnson author of Fast Cars and Frybread  
Friday, November 19 6:00 to 8:00pm Multi Purpose Room, Student Services Center
### 9th Week – Produce, produce, produce

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<th>Assignments due</th>
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<tr>
<td>22. Interview transcript – FW Assignment #9</td>
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<td>23. Survey responses – FW Assignment #10</td>
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<td>24. Powerpoint dog draft “ruff ruff” (Option A only)</td>
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<td>25. Artist statements draft, Hi-resolution photos and dimensions (Option B only)</td>
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<td>26. Curatorial catalog notes (Curatorial Committee only)</td>
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### 10th Week – Revise, revise, revise

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<th>Friday – Recommended day to print research posters</th>
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<td>Assignments due</td>
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<td>27. Powerpoint rough draft (Option A only)</td>
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<td>28. Script/outline of 10 min talk (Option A only)</td>
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<td>29. Final artist statements due (Option B only)</td>
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<td>30. Installation plan due (Curatorial Committee only)</td>
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<td>31. Rehearsal – In Class</td>
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<td>32. Archive box and binder – In Class</td>
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### Final exam – Theories of Space: Art Exhibition and Research Conference

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<tr>
<th>Tuesday December 7, 10am – 7pm – Gallery Installation (Option B)</th>
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<td>Thursday, December 9, 7 – 10 p.m., Cross Cultural Center</td>
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<td>33. Final Research Poster and Presentation (Option A only)</td>
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<td>34. Art Exhibition Reception (Option B only)</td>
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<td>Friday, January 7, 10am - 7 pm – Deinstallation (Option B only)</td>
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**Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.