Ethnic Studies 290B: Masters Thesis Preparation  
Mondays 1 pm - 3:50 pm, Spring 2009

Instructor: K. Wayne Yang  
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Phone: (858) 822-2824  
Office Hours: Monday noon-1pm and Wednesday 1-3 pm  
Cell: 510-393-5611

Readings will be on library reserves or handed out in class.

**Purpose and Rationale:**
Writing a Master’s Thesis is the first of the major benchmarks in our graduate program. It requires you to undertake a significant research project and engage in intensive writing for the better part of a year. The focus of this course is on writing and completing the thesis. Each week you will be devoting a significant amount of time to your thesis work. When writing is due for class evaluation, please make copies for everyone (and the instructor) and place in their mailboxes by the due date. When you are reading your colleagues’ work, make thoughtful and constructive suggestions for improvement and put them in writing. Providing feedback and useful critiques of others’ work is an important part of academic life, so it will be emphasized as well. The major goal of the course is to have you build on and complete the fundamental building blocks of your thesis (including conceptualization and research question(s), introduction, literature review, research methods, evidence/data, and analysis). Throughout the course, the instructor will include a focus on professionalization and career issues as well.

**Schedule**

March 30  
Introductions, clarifications, and setting goals

April 6  
Discussions and feedback on Group A papers

April 13  
Discussions and feedback on Group B papers

April 20  
Discussion on community school development, pedagogy, indigenous rights, and intellectual activism with Ann Milne, principal of Te Whanau o Tupuranga (a Year 7-13 ‘special character,’ Maori bilingual Secondary School) and Clover Park Middle School (a Year 7-10 Middle School). Aotearoa / New Zealand

April 27  
Discussions and feedback on Group A papers

May 4  
Discussions and feedback on Group B papers

May 11  
Discussions and feedback on Group A papers

May 18  
Discussions and feedback on Group B papers
May 25  
No class. Revise papers and meet with faculty advisors

June 1  
Discussions and feedback on remaining papers and issues.

June 8  
Final Class (if needed)

**Structure/Requirements:**
- Email drafts of your writing for group crit – every other week – total of 3 drafts.
  When it is your turn to submit your work, please be sure to email it to all of us by Saturday midnight. Do not submit more than 30 pages. When you submit your work, please situate it within the larger thesis and let us know what kind of help you most need with your piece.
- Lead discussions on your partner’s draft – every other week.
- Off-line discussions with your partners – the week before you present
- Office hours – at least once during quarter after your first and before your last presentation. Come with your partner(s) if possible.

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