ETHN 240: 
Multidisciplinary Methods in Ethnic Studies

Professor Lisa Sun-Hee Park

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Winter 2007
W 10-12:50pm
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COURSE OVERVIEW
The goal of this course is to provide critical methodological tools to undertake an Ethnic Studies project, which many times requires that we make “visible” those experiences and histories made “invisible.” The methodology behind the discipline of Ethnic Studies is multidimensional and interdisciplinary—as it should be. However, this inherent multidisciplinarity is a blessing and a curse. It is a complex and messy endeavor, but at the same time, it is an honest reflection of life and the lived experiences that comprise our society. The theories that compel the use of a particular method of social inquiry reflect the (changing) goals and objectives of Ethnic Studies itself. The methods we undertake, then, are political and require rigorous intellectual attention. This course attempts to begin this analytical journey by discussing the ideas and concerns of various researchers who have contributed to a constructive dialog regarding methodologies and their larger political and social implications.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available at Groundwork Books)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
This is a graduate seminar that requires your active participation. Students will take turns leading the discussion. This will require a brief presentation of the materials and a series of specific discussion questions (to be turned into the instructor). Everyone must come prepared to participate in the discussion, along with a succinct critical essay analyzing the week’s readings. Each essay should argue a central point with supporting evidence from course materials. The final paper should demonstrate your ability to critically define and assess potential implications of an issue, debate, or argument re-occurring in the assigned readings and class discussions.

Weekly analysis (1 page, single spaced) 30%
Lead discussion 20%
Final paper (Due Fri., March 23) 50%

OUTLINE OF COURSE READINGS

January 10: Introduction to the Course

January 17:

January 24:

January 31:

February 7:

February 14:

February 21:

February 28:

March 7:

March 14: