ETHN 100B: Methods for Interdisciplinary Research

This course gives students the opportunity to think critically about the theory and practice of Ethnic Studies research. As an interdisciplinary field, Ethnic Studies has historically employed research methods from a wide range of traditional disciplines including literature, history, film and media studies, communications, sociology, anthropology, and geography, as well as insurgent, problem-based fields such as Arab American studies, Asian American studies, Black studies, Chican@/Latin@ studies, disability studies, gender studies, Indigenous studies/Native American studies, and queer studies. The result of all of this interdisciplinary ferment has been the formation of distinctive Ethnic Studies methods for producing knowledge about differences of ability, class, gender, nation, race, and sexuality. We will focus this winter on three such methods: Historical/Archival methods, community based research methods, and cultural studies methods.

**Required Texts**, available at the UCSD bookstore


Textbooks are also on reserve at Geisel library. Other assigned readings will be made available later. Stay tuned for announcements.

**Evaluation.** Grades will be based on the following assignments:

1. Participation in class, including attendance, attentive listening, contributing to large and small group discussion (10% of final grade).

2. A 15-minute in-class presentation. All students will join teams of 2 or 3 to make joint presentations about suggested material relevant to class discussions. Below are suggested presentation topics and students may devise their own topics in consultation with Ethnic Studies staff. Presentations should A) briefly summarize the material; B) if the material is a research essay describe its method, if it is primary text or artifact explain what it documents or evidences, and C) relate presentation material to assigned course readings. **It is crucial that presentations are no longer than 15 minutes** (15% of final grade). The assignment includes submitting a brief self-evaluation and evaluation for your co-presenters.

3. Three 5-page papers, each focused on one of the three methods studied in the course. The aim of each paper will be to select 2 course readings from the current unit and analyze their research methods. What methodological assumptions do particular authors make and what are the implications of such assumptions? How do the author’s construct and interpret evidence? What are the strengths and weaknesses of particular methods? **Papers must be turned in at the start of class on the days they are due** (each paper is worth 25% of final grade).

**Attendance.** Every unexcused absence will affect your participation grade, and two excused absences are permitted before it affects your participation grade. In order to be counted as present you must arrive on time and stay until the conclusion of lecture or section.
**Electronic Devices and Laptops.** Cell phones and other electronic devices (PDA/iPod/iPad, laptops etc) may not be used for talking, texting, checking email or surfing the web. You may however use such devices to take notes in class and to search for information related to class discussion when prompted by the professor. Repeated use of electronic devices for other purposes distracts others and will negatively affect your grade.

**ADA Statement.** If you have a documented disability needing accommodations, please inform me and bring a notification letter outlining your approved accommodations. I will make all reasonable efforts to assist you. If, as a result of a disability, you cannot accept the content or terms of this syllabus, you must notify me in writing within one week of receipt of the syllabus. You may also seek assistance or information from the Office for Students with Disabilities, 858/534/4382.

**Cheating and Plagiarism.** Whether intentional or inadvertent, plagiarism is a serious violation. All work submitted in this course must be your own. The use of sources such as ideas, quotations, paraphrases, or anything written by someone else must be properly acknowledged and cited. If you have questions about the proper citation of sources, please ask your Teaching Assistants. Students who plagiarize, or who cheat on an exam, will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with University policy. Students are expected to be familiar with UCSD’s Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, available at: http://www.senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14.

**Discussion Ethics.** This class is intended for students interested in challenging commonly held understandings of race, gender, sexuality, class, and nation. Given the nature of the course there will likely be a wide range of opinions. Ideally the course will prompt you to think for yourself and to raise questions about conventional views and received wisdom. However, please engage one another in discussion with respect and consideration. These norms are reflected in the UCSD Principles of Community that we are all expected to follow (http://wwwvcb.ucsd.edu/principles.htm).

**Course Aims.** The goal of this course is to help prepare students for original Ethnic Studies research, including as part of the departmental honors program.

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**Tu 1/7 Syllabus Overview: Shelley Streeby**

**I. Historical/Archival Methods**

**Th 1/9 Introduction:** What are interdisciplinary research methods?
  Lecture: Kirstie Dorr

**Tu 1/14 (Week 2) Reading History**
  Anjali Arondekar, *For the Record*, Introduction
  Lecture: Sara Kaplan

**Th 1/16 Visual Archives**
  Daphne Taylor-Garcia, "Decolonial Historiography: Thinking About Land and Race in a Transcolonial Context."
  Linda Tuhawai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodology* (Chapter 11)
  Lecture: Daphne Taylor-Garcia

**Tu 1/21 (Week 3) Representation in Archives: Images**
  Curtis Marez, “Cesar Chavez’s Video Collection,” [http://scalar.usc.edu/nehvectors/curtis-marez/index](http://scalar.usc.edu/nehvectors/curtis-marez/index)

Lecture: Curtis Marez

**Th 1/23 Visual Cultural Studies**
Presentation: One of films written on in Introduction
Lecture: Shelley Streeby

**Tu 1/28 (Week 4) Race, Gender, Nation and Sexuality**
**Paper One Due/Hand in to Shelley Streeby’s box in Ethnic Studies office by 4 PM**
In-class discussion of tools to use for research projects.
Lecture: Alanna Moore, Librarian for Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies
UC San Diego Library

**Th 1/30 Representation in Archives: Documents**
Dayo Gore, *Radical Women*, Introduction and one more chapter.
Presentation topics: Another chapter of Gore, *Radical Women*
Lecture: Dayo Gore

**II. Cultural Studies Methods**

**Tu 2/4: (Week 5) Film Studies**
Atanasoski, Chapter 2: “The Vietnam War and the Ethics of Failure: Heart of Darkness and the Emergence of Humanitarian Feeling at the Limits of Imperial Critique”
Presentation topic: Article on Drones, or Drones at Home Project/exhibit (archived in three parts online)
Lecture: Wayne Yang

**Th 2/6: War and Digital Cultural Studies**
Atanasoski, Epilogue: “Beyond Spectacle: The Hidden Geographies of the War at Home”
Presentation topic: *Far from Afghanistan* OR *Standard Operating Procedure*
Lecture: Roshy Kheshti

**Tu 2/11: (Week 6) Reading Documentary Critically**
Atanansoski, Chapter 5: “Feminist Politics of Secular Redemption at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia”
Presentation topic: Julietta Hua reading on Human Rights and visualizing them
Lecture: Sara Kaplan

**Th 2/13 Reading Documentary Critically**
Fatimah Tobing Rony, “Robert Flaherty’s *Nanook of the North*: The Politics of Taxidermy and Romantic Ethnography”
Screening and Discussion: *Nanook of the North*
Lecture: Ross Frank

**III. Community-based research**

**Tu 2/18 (Week 7) Engaging Contradictions**
Hale, Forward and Introduction
Presentation topic: Hale, chapter 3
Lecture: Wayne Yang

**Th 2/20 Mapping the Terrain**  
Hale, chapters 1 and 2  
Lecture: Kirstie Dorr

**Tu 2/25 (Week 8) Troubling the Terms**  
Hale, chapters 5 and 7  
Presentation topic: a different essay by one of the authors in Hale  
Lecture: Fatima El Tayeb

**Th 2/27 Putting Activist Scholarship to Work**  
Hale, chapters 8 and 9  
Presentation topic: a different essay by one of the authors in Hale  
Lecture: Fatima El Tayeb

**Tu (Week 9) 3/4 Making Ourselves At Home**  
Hale, chapters 11 and 12  
Presentation topic: a different essay by one of the authors in Hale  
Lecture: Grace Hong

**Th 3/6 Making Ourselves at Home**  
Hale, chapter 13, Afterword,  
Presentation topic: a different essay by one of the authors in Hale  
Lecture: Ross Frank

**Tu 3/11 Summary and review of Interdisciplinarity as method**  
Lecture: Roshy Kheshti

**Friday 3/14 Paper Three Due by 4:00 in Shelley Streeby’s mailbox in the Ethnic Studies office**