

Research in Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies 191, Fall 2004

SSB 253, Wed. 9AM-11:50

Professor Ross Frank

Phone: (858) 534-6646

Hours: Wednesday 1-3 PM

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Thurs. 2-4 PM & by appt.

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Course materials available at: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~rfrank>

Course Description

Undergraduate Research in Ethnic Studies (ES 191), focuses on building the skills and techniques that will enable you to move from consumers to producers of knowledge. During this course we will work through each stage of designing a research project: defining a topic area; mastering the relevant literature; honing the topic area into a research subject; developing generative research questions; and selecting appropriate methods and materials to best address those questions.

You will learn by designing a research proposal which will become a roadmap that will guide you through your Honors research project. Along the way you will use and develop critical and analytical skills that will help you to work through the common pitfalls involved in designing a research project. You will be aided by reading exemplar proposals and selected publications, and engaging in conversation with fellow Honors students and with guests who will present their research projects and discuss research design methodology.

The course objectives are:

- to produce a formal Honors project prospectus; and
- to develop a working relationship with a faculty mentor who will oversee and guide your work through ETHN 192 and 193 (Winter and Spring quarters).

Successful research projects will earn "Honors in Ethnic Studies" upon graduation.

Student Responsibilities

A written (typed) assignment will be due each week at the beginning of class, as described below. One late assignment is allowed during the quarter, and it must be placed in my mailbox or e-mailed to me by 10AM the following Monday morning. Attendance during class meetings is mandatory.

The grade for this course will be cumulative and assigned based on the level of your effort in the course, your participation in class meetings, and the final form of your Prospectus, as follows:

50% = class attendance, participation, and written assignments;
50% = final research prospectus.

Booklist

The following required texts are available at Groundwork:

Briggs, Charles L. *Learning How to Ask : A Sociolinguistic Appraisal of the Role of the Interview in Social Science Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1986.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003, 2nd ed.

Class Schedule

Week 1 September 29 Introduction & Planning

Selecting a topic

Choosing a mentor

Beginning to plan a research project

Assignment: Make an appointment with me to meet before our Week 2 meeting.

Week 2 October 6: Research Proposal Guidelines; Topic feasibility and scope

Discuss research topic ideas

Asking the best questions of your research subject

Discussion of topic areas; preparing an annotated bibliography

Assignment: 1) Brief description of your research topic. 2) Send description to Victoria Williamson (Ethnic Studies bibliographer) by e-mail.

Week 3 October 13 Library Resources meeting

NOTE: This class will meet at Geisel Library Library Electronic Classroom (LEC), across from the bank of library access terminals to the left of the entrance.

Library resources meeting with Vicki Williamson

Hands on library work

Choosing and mixing methodologies to address a research question

Assignment: 1) Preliminary annotated bibliography; 2) preliminary outline for Prospectus.

Week 4 October 20 Research Reports and Discussion

Reading strategies

Working well with your mentor

Writing a review of literature (historical context, recent studies, useful theory)

Research design and methodology I: Lisa Sun-Hee Park on Immigration & Health.

Assignment: 1) Revised annotated bibliography; 2) detailed outline of literature review.

Week 5 October 27 Research Reports and Discussion

Protecting Human Subjects

Writing strategies

Research design and methodology II: Roberto Alvarez on Ethnography.

Assignment: 1) Literature review; 2) discussion of proposed methodology/ies; 3) complete online IRB course and bring certificate to class.

Week 6 November 3: Research Reports and Discussion

Class research updates (brief presentations of project shape and major issues)

Research design and methodology III: David Pellow on Environmental Activist Research.

Assignment: First draft of research prospectus. Please make a paper copy for each member of the class for distribution.

Week 7 November 10 Research Reports and Discussion

Revising strategies

Research design and methodology IV: Ramón Gutiérrez on Historical methods.

Assignment: Critique, comments, and suggestions of first-draft proposals to be distributed in class.

Week 8 November 17: First Drafts I - Presentation and Critique

First draft presentations (part one)

Assignment: 1) Make an appointment to meet with me during the week; 2) revisions and another iteration of critiques and comments.

Week 9 November 24: First Drafts II - Presentation and Critique

First draft presentations (part two)

Assignment: Revise! Revise! Revise!

Week 10 December 1: Looking ahead at the Honors paper

Developing the project: managing research and writing effectively.

Assignment: 1) Final Prospectus due; 2) Human Subjects submission (if needed).

