

Research in Ethnic Studies
Ethnic Studies 191 - Fall 2008

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Course Description

Research in Ethnic Studies 191 is designed to prepare you to build the skills and techniques to transfer your interests into strong research projects. You all bring specific knowledge and ideas to the theme you will be pursuing, but this course will provide you with the appropriate methods and procedures to plan, design and carry out research. In this course we will work through each stage of designing a research project. This includes defining a topic in an area of your interest; mastering the relevant literature; honing your interests into a research subject; developing generative research questions; and selecting appropriate methods and materials that best address your research questions.

You will learn by actually producing a research proposal which will guide you through your Honors research project. Throughout the quarter you will use and develop critical and analytical skills that will help you work through the common problems involved in research design. You will also read exemplary proposals from past honors projects, selected research articles and importantly you will engage your fellow Honors classmates in discussion, as well as guests who will present their research projects and research methodologies.

A crucial part of the Honors Research is selecting an appropriate mentor to guide your research in winter and fall quarters. We will discuss the choosing of mentors and how you can get the most out working with the faculty person you select.

The course objectives are:

1. To develop the primary skills to plan and conduct an honors research project
2. To produce a formal Honors project prospectus and,
3. To develop a working relationship with a faculty mentor who will oversee and guide your work through ETHN 192 (winter) and ETHN 193 (spring).

At the end of the year, successful research projects will earn “Honors in Ethnic Studies” upon graduation.

Student Responsibilities

A typewritten assignment will be due each week at the beginning of class. The assignments are listed on the class date on which they are due. Attendance during class meetings is mandatory.

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

50% = class attendance, participation, and written assignments

50% = final research prospectus

Required Book List

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—October 1: Introduction and Planning

- Introductions
- Discussion of research interests and topics
- Choosing a mentor
- Beginning to plan a research project.

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

Week 2 – October 8: Library Resources Meeting.

- Library resources meeting and hands on work with Alanna Aiko Moore
- This class will meet at Geisel Library Room 274/Library Classroom 1.
- Discussion of research topics: From broad topics to focused questions.

Assignment: (1)Read: *Craft of Research*: Chapters 1, 2, and 3; (2) write a brief first draft general research topic; (3) email your general research topic to Alanna Aiko Moore (aamoore@library.ucsd.edu) (Ethnic Studies Bibliographer);

Week 3-- October 15: Guidelines for the Research Proposal/ Prospectus and the research question

- Discussion of Research topics
- Developing researchable questions of your research topic
- The Research problem
- The Research Prospectus (Question, Review of Literature, Methodology, Significance)
- Writing a review of the literature (historical context, recent studies; useful theory); preparing an annotated bibliography

Assignment: (1) brief description of your research topic; (2) bring copies for all classmates; (3) read chapters 4 and 5 of *Craft of Research*

Week 4 – October 22: Research, the Literature Review, and the Research Prospect

- Library resources meeting with Alanna Aiko Moore at Geisel Library 274/Library Classroom 1

Week 5 – October 29: Human Subjects, Ethics, Methodology and Research Reports

- Protecting Human Subjects
- Choosing and mixing methodologies to address a research question
- Writing Strategies
- Research design and methodology: Professor Gabriel Mendes
Assignment: (1) literature review; (2) read outlines of classmates for discussion and constructive criticism in class (This will include a discussion of proposed methodology); (3) complete *online IRB course* and bring certificate to class.

Week 6 -- November 5: Research Reports and Discussion

- Class research updates (brief presentations of project progress/shape and major issues)
- Research Design and methodology: Professor Wayne Yang
Assignment: (1) First draft of research prospectus; (2) Please make a paper copy for each member of the class for distribution .

Week 7 – November 12: Research Reports and Discussion

- Revising strategies
- Research design and methodology: Professor Ross Frank
Assignment: (1) Write a Critique with comments and suggestions of first-draft; (2) make copies to be distributed in class

Week 8 – November 19: First Drafts I – Presentation and Critique

- First draft presentations (part one – see group and in-class critique schedule)
Assignment: 1) Make an appointment to meet with me during the week; 2) revisions and first group of critiques and comments for classmates.

Week 9 – November 26: First Drafts II – Presentation and Critique

- First draft presentations (part two—see group and in-class critique schedule)
Assignment: EDIT and REVISE. (1) Second group of critiques and comments for classmates.

Week 10 – December 3: Looking Ahead: Mentors and the Final Honors Paper

- Developing your project: managing research and writing effectively.
Assignment: Final Prospectus due; 2) Human Subjects submission (if needed)

