

Ethnic Studies 289: Methods 1: Historical Methods

Fall Quarter 2009

Prof. Natalia Molina

Office: Social Science Building 226

Mailbox: Department of Ethnic Studies, Social Science Building 201

Office Phone: 858.822.1580

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5, Thursdays 3:30-5, and by appointment

Course objectives: This course has three goals: 1) We will read historical monographs and examine how these authors have used historical methods but also read them through Ethnic Studies lenses. 2) We will seek to understand the techniques and tools historians use in creating a historical narrative. We will take these historical tools and pair them with our Ethnic Studies lenses. We will look at how to find and choose sources, how to read them, and how to piece them together to create a narrative. 3) As such, you will produce your own abbreviated research papers (15 pages). The course is too short to expect an article length research paper. Instead, you will be expected to produce a primary source based-paper that examines a well-defined topic and provide contextualization for that topic.

In addition to the course readings, students should expect to spend at least 3-4 hours weekly on library research and electronic database searches and 7-8 hours on weeks when reading is not assigned. Beginning week 3, students share their research goals for the week in class and provide an update the next week of their progress. This is an exercise in creating a game-plan for your research, as well as setting small, realizable goals.

Your final paper is a chance to work with primary sources. It is not a prospectus. It is not a fully-developed research paper. It is an abbreviated and thoughtful research paper. That being said, your final paper should include:

- Your research question and an explanation of how this has (or has not) been looked at in the literature thus requiring an overview of the literature.
- A discussion of your methodology, how and why you chose your primary sources, and your analysis of your sources.

In addition, in order to facilitate discussion, I would like all students to present at least one oral report during the quarter. "Oral report" does not mean an exhaustive analysis of a text but a short (5-10 minutes) summary of the principle arguments, followed by some questions that you would like the class to discuss. I will solicit volunteers each week to help in this effort.

For those of you are not giving an oral report on a given day, bring a short response to the readings to class. Papers should include talking points, questions you had while doing the readings, and questions for the class.

Course requirements:

- To develop archival-based response papers. These are due weeks 2-8 and are 2-3 pages in length. The first paragraph should include an abstract of the book and the rest of the paper should examine a primary source related or from the book and analyzed using the readings.
- To develop a longer (10-12 pages) research paper out of the research skills we learned bringing in the readings and discussions from the course. **Due: Tuesday, December 8, 6 pm**
- To develop a primary source bibliography which explains 1) where you are finding your primary sources and 2) what the strengths and potential weaknesses of those sources are 3) include a section on secondary sources on your topic and discuss the primary sources you can mine from these sources. You can think of this as part progress report/part game-plan. Please schedule a one-on-one meeting with Alanna Aiko Moore so that you can fine-tune your searches.

Due November 17

- Facilitate a class discussion on the readings paying special attention to how we read sources and methodologies.

Books:

Mumford, Kevin J. *Interzones: Black/White Sex Districts in Chicago and New York in the Early Twentieth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Schmidt Camacho, Alicia R. *Migrant Imaginaries : Latino Cultural Politics in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*. New York: New York University Press, 2008.

Sánchez, George. *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Molina, Natalia. *Fit to Be Citizens?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2006.

Shah, Nayan. *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Ngai, Mae M. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004.

The articles and book chapters are on e-reserves. Books are available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625).

Week 1: Archives as knowledge production

Stoler, Ann. "Colonial Archives and the Arts of Governance." *Archival Science* 2, no. 2 (2002): 87-109.

Harris, Verne, "The Archival Sliver: Power, Memory, and Archives in South Africa," *Archival Science* 2: 63–86, 2002.

Schwartz and Cook, "Archives, Records, and Power: The Making of Modern Memory," *Archival Science* 2: 1–19, 2002.

Lisa Lowe, "The Intimacies of Four Continents," in Stoler, Ann Laura. *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

Week 2: Mumford, Kevin J. *Interzones: Black/White Sex Districts in Chicago and New York in the Early Twentieth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Week 3: Research Fundamentals with Alanna Aiko Moore, Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies Librarian, in Library Classroom

We will develop a list of resources that are suitable for our research including using dissertations as resources, navigating websites, using government documents.

Reading: Chapter Three: "Saying 'Nothin': Pachucas and the Languages of Resistance (pages 83-108, notes: 178-185) in Ramírez, Catherine. *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009.

Schmidt Camacho, Alicia R. *Migrant Imaginaries : Latino Cultural Politics in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*. New York: New York University Press, 2008, 1-61

Week 4:

Sánchez, George. *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

We will discuss the readings from the past week.

Week 5:

Molina, Natalia. *Fit to Be Citizens?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2006.

Week 6:

Visit to UCSD's archival collections.

Ngai, Mae M. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004, Parts I and II

Week 7:

Shah, Nayan. *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Gabriel Mendes, readings to be assigned.

Guest speaker: Gabriel Mendes

Week 8:

Ngai, Mae M. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004, Parts III, IV and epilogue

Schmidt Camacho, Alicia R. *Migrant Imaginaries : Latino Cultural Politics in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*. New York: New York University Press, 2008, chapter 2

Primary source bibliography due

Week 9:

Enroll and attend one of the reworks and/or endnote classes offered by the library. Look for “Register for a Reworks Workshop” at the UCSD library webpage

Week 10: Presentations of primary sources and analysis to the class.

Suggestions for Further Readings:

History of the Human Sciences -Special volumes on archives: November 1998, Volume 11 (4) and November 1999, Volume 12 (4).

Axel, Brian Keith. *From the Margins: Historical Anthropology and Its Futures*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002.

Burton, Antoinette M. *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.

Roque, Horacio. "A Living Archive of Desire: Teresita La Campesina and the Embodiment of Queer Latino Community Histories." In *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, edited by Antoinette M. Burton. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.

Rosaldo, Renato. "Doing Oral History." *Social Analysis* 4 (September 1980): 91-.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston, Mass.: Beacon Press, 1995.