

**Ethnic Studies 191, Fall 2011**  
**SSB 253, Wed. 10am-12:50pm**  
Professor Curtis Marez  
Office Hours: W 12:30-2:00, Th 11-12:30, SSB 224

### **Research in Ethnic Studies**

This course focuses on building the skills and techniques that will enable you to move from consumers to producers of knowledge. During the Fall quarter we will work through each stage of designing a research project: defining a topic area; engaging 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. Your research proposal will ultimately serve to guide you through your honors research project.

While research is partly a solitary process, it is also vitally social, and we will approach our research as part of larger collective projects. Students will thus participate in discussions with each other and with faculty guests who will present their research projects and methodologies.

The course objectives are to develop the primary skills to plan and conduct an honor research project; produce a formal Honors project prospectus; and develop a working relationship with a faculty mentor who will oversee and guide your work through ETHN 192 (Winter) and ETHN 193 (Spring). Successful research projects will earn “Honors in Ethnic Studies” upon graduation.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Attend all class meetings and complete all assignments by their due date.

A written (typed) assignment will be due each week at the beginning of class.

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 text is available at the UCSD bookstore:

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

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

## **Class Schedule**

### **September 28:** Introduction & Planning

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

### **October 5:** Guidelines for the Research Proposal, Forming Research Questions

Discussion of Research topics: from broad topics to focused researchable questions. Asking the best questions of your research subject. Discussion of topic areas; preparing an annotated bibliography.

#### **Assignment:**

- 1) Read chapters 1, 2, and 3 of Booth et al's *The Craft of Research*.
- 2) Following chapter 3 of *The Craft of Research*, write a brief description of your research topic that explains what you are interested in writing about, what you do not know about it, and why you want your reader to know about it. Bring 3 copies of the description to class for discussion in break out groups.

### **October 12:** Research Practices

Library resources meeting with librarian Alanna Aiko Moore (10-12:50) **NOTE:** This class will meet at Geisel Library, in the Science and Engineering Library Instruction Room for hands-on work with computer data bases.

Short Talk: Reading strategies. Choosing and working well with your mentor.

#### **Assignment:**

- 1) e-mail your revised research topic to Alanna Aiko Moore ([aamoore@ucsd.edu](mailto:aamoore@ucsd.edu)) by Sunday, October 9.
- 2) Read chapters 5 and 6 of *The Craft of Research*.

### **October 19:** Organizing Research, Literature Review, Forming a Research Project.

Library meeting with librarian Alanna Aiko Moore (10-12:50) **NOTE:** This class will

meet at Geisel Library, in the Science and Engineering Library Instruction Room for a tutorial in the use of RefWorks, an online tool for managing research and generating bibliographies and citations.

Short Talk: Literature Review

**Assignment:**

1) Read Literature review handout:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/resources/handouts-demos/specific-writing-assignments/literature-reviews>

2) For an example of a good literature review read David G. Gutiérrez and Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, "Introduction: Nation and Migration," American Quarterly 60.3 (September 2008): 503-521.

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american\\_quarterly/v060/60.3.gutierrez.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_quarterly/v060/60.3.gutierrez.pdf)

Please note how the authors discuss the changing conversations in the field of transnational migration over time.

3) Annotated bibliography due. Identify 3 research areas most relevant to your research topic; find 3 sources for each area; and select 1 out of the 3 sources to write an annotated bibliography for each area.

**October 26:** Human Subjects, Ethics, Methodology, and Research Reports

Choosing and mixing methodologies to address a research question. Protecting Human Subjects.

Research design and methodology I: **Professor Yen Espiritu** (11am)

**Assignment:**

1) write a 3 page literature review and e-mail to all members of the class by 8pm on Monday October 24.

2) read the literature reviews of classmates for discussion and constructive criticism in class.

3) complete *CITI training module* and select "Basic Human Subjects – Social & Behavioral Focus" course (access from <http://irb.ucsd.edu/training.shtml>). Bring your certificate to class.

**November 2:** Research Reports and Discussion

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

Research design and methodology II: **Professor TBA**

**Assignment:**

- 1) Write Introduction and Methodologies (3 pages) that includes the following:
  - a.) description of research topic and main research question(s).
  - b.) significance of your topic and research questions: what makes this an Ethnic Studies project?
  - c.) discussion of methodologies proposed in response to the research questions. Explain why you have selected your particular method(s) and discuss the feasibility of the project.
  - d.) overview of the information you will use as evidence in support of your arguments and how you are collecting, organizing, interpreting, and critically analyzing it.
- 2) e-mail your Introduction and Methodologies sections to all class members by 8pm on Monday, November 7.

**November 9:** Research Reports and Discussion

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

Short Talk: Writing and revising strategies.

Research design and methodology III: **Professor TBA**

**Assignment:**

Repeat 1) and 2)

**November 16:** Group One Prospectus Presentations

Group 1 will email to the class the first draft of the prospectus by midnight, Sunday November 13. Please come to class prepared to provide constructive criticism.

**Assignment:**

Repeat 1) and 2)

Make an appointment to meet with me this week.

**November 23:** Group Two Prospectus Presentations

Group Two will email to the class the first draft of the prospectus by midnight, Sunday November 20. Please come to class prepared to provide constructive criticism.

Group One will bring to class written comments for the other writers in your group.

**Assignment:** Revise! Revise! Revise!

**November 30:** Group Three Prospectus Presentations

Group Three will email to the class the first draft of the prospectus by midnight, Sunday November 27.

Group Two will bring to class written comments for other writers in your group.

**Assignment:** Revise! Revise! Revise!

**December 1:** Looking ahead at the Honors paper.

Short Talk: Developing the project: managing research and writing effectively.

Group Three will bring written comments to class for the other members of your group.

Assignment:

- 1) Revise! Revise! Revise!
- 2) Human Subjects submission (if needed).

**Final Revised Prospectus Due Wed. Dec 7 (5:00pm Finals Week)**