

University of California, San Diego

**ETHN 240:
Multidisciplinary Methods in Ethnic Studies**

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Winter 2006

SSB 233, T 10am-12:50pm

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COURSE OVERVIEW

The goal of this course is to provide critical methodological tools to undertake an Ethnic Studies project, which many times requires that we make “visible” those experiences and histories made “invisible.” The methodology behind the discipline of Ethnic Studies is multidimensional and interdisciplinary—as it should be. However, this inherent multidisciplinaryity is a blessing and a curse. It is a complex and messy endeavor, but at the same time, it is an honest reflection of life and the lived experiences that comprise our society. The theories that compel the use of a particular method of social inquiry reflect the (changing) goals and objectives of Ethnic Studies itself. The methods we undertake, then, are political and require rigorous intellectual attention. This course attempts to begin this analytical journey by introducing the ideas and concerns of various researchers who have contributed to a constructive discussion of particular methodologies and their larger political and social implications.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Books: (Available at Groundwork Books)

Avila, Eric. 2004. *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles*. University of California Press.

McClintock, Anne et al. 1997. *Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives*. University of Minnesota Press.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 2003. *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. Duke University Press.

Ong, Aihwa. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Duke University Press.

Rosaldo, Renato. 1993. *Culture and Truth: Remaking of Social Analysis*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Sandoval, Chela. 2000. *Methodology of the Oppressed*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Smith, Dorothy E. 2005. *Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People*. Altamira Press.

Williams, Patricia. 1992. *Alchemy of Race and Rights*. Harvard University Press.

Zuberi, Tukufu. 2001. *Thicker Than Blood: How Racial Statistics Lie*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Reader:

Allen, Paula Gunn. 1998. "Looking Back: Ethnics in the Western Formalist Situation," *Off the Reservation*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

Burawoy, Michael. 2000. *Global Ethnography: Forces, connections, and imaginations in a postmodern world*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter one.

Duneier, Mitchell. 2004. "Finding a Place to Pee and Other Struggles of Ethnography: Reflections on Race and Method" in *Off White: Readings on Power, Privilege, and Resistance*. Edited by Michelle Fine et al. Routledge Press.

Hurtado, Aida and Abigail J. Stewart. 2004. "Through the Looking Glass: Implications of Studying Whiteness for Feminist Methods" in *Off White: Readings on Power, Privilege, and Resistance*. Edited by Michelle Fine et al. Routledge Press.

Lam, Maivan Clech. 1994. "Feeling Foreign in Feminism," *Signs*. v19, n4: 865-893.

Morawski, Jill G. 2004. "White Experimenters, White Blood, and Other White Conditions: Locating the Psychologist's Race" in *Off White: Readings on Power, Privilege, and Resistance*. Edited by Michelle Fine et al. Routledge Press.

Reed, Adolph. 2001. *Class Notes: Posing as Politics and Other Thoughts on the American Scene*. New York: New Press. Pgs. 10-13, 77-108, 171-179.

Trask, Haunani-Kay. 1991. "Natives and Anthropologists: The Colonial Struggle," *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs*. V3, n1: 159-167. [Read also R. Keesing's reply to Trask and J. Linnekin's reply to both Trask and Keesing.]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a graduate seminar that requires your active participation. Students will take turns leading the discussion. Everyone must come prepared with specific questions for discussion and a critical essay analyzing the week's readings.

Weekly analysis (9x, 3-5 pages each)	80%
Lead discussion	20%

OUTLINE OF COURSE READINGS

January 10 Introduction to the Course

January 17

Sandoval, Chela. 2000. *Methodology of the Oppressed*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

January 24

Rosaldo, Renato. 1993. *Culture and Truth: Remaking of Social Analysis*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Reader:

Trask, Haunani-Kay. 1991. "Natives and Anthropologists: The Colonial Struggle," *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs*. V3, n1: 159-167. [Read also R. Keesing's reply to Trask and J. Linnekin's reply to both Trask and Keesing.]

January 31

Ong, Aihwa. 1999. *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Duke University Press.

Reader:

Burawoy, Michael. 2000. *Global Ethnography: Forces, connections, and imaginations in a postmodern world*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter one.

February 7

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 2003. *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. Duke University Press.

Reader:

Hurtado, Aida and Abigail J. Stewart. 2004. "Through the Looking Glass: Implications of Studying Whiteness for Feminist Methods" in *Off White: Readings on Power, Privilege, and Resistance*. Edited by Michelle Fine et al. Routledge Press.

February 14

Smith, Dorothy E. 2005. *Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People*. Altamira Press.

Reader:

Duneier, Mitchell. 2004. "Finding a Place to Pee and Other Struggles of Ethnography: Reflections on Race and Method" in *Off White: Readings on Power, Privilege, and Resistance*. Edited by Michelle Fine et al. Routledge Press.

February 21

Williams, Patricia. 1992. *Alchemy of Race and Rights*. Harvard University Press.

Reader:

Lam, Maivan Clech. 1994. "Feeling Foreign in Feminism," *Signs*. V19, n4: 865-893.

Reed, Adolph. 2001. *Class Notes: Posing as Politics and Other Thoughts on the American Scene*. New York: New Press. Pgs. 10-13, 77-108, 171-179.

February 28

Avila, Eric. 2004. *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles*. University of California Press.

March 7

Zuberi, Tukufu. 2001. *Thicker Than Blood: How Racial Statistics Lie*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Reader:

Morawski, Jill G. 2004. "White Experimenters, White Blood, and Other White Conditions: Locating the Psychologist's Race" in *Off White: Readings on Power, Privilege, and Resistance*. Edited by Michelle Fine et al. Routledge Press.

March 14

McClintock, Anne et al. 1997. *Dangerous Liasons: Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives*. University of Minnesota Press.

Reader:

Allen, Paula Gunn. 1998. "Looking Back: Ethnics in the Western Formalist Situation," *Off the Reservation*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.