

# ETHN 190/ USP 129: Studying Racial and Ethnic Communities

T/Th, 12:30 -1:50 pm, Peter 104  
UCSD/ Winter 2007

Instructor: Theresa C. Suarez

Office hours & location: T/Th, 10:30 am to noon, SSB 249

Email: [tcenidoz@dss.ucsd.edu](mailto:tcenidoz@dss.ucsd.edu)

(Mailbox available in the Ethnic Studies Department: Social Science Building 201.)

## **Course Description**

This undergraduate course focuses on practical training in ethnographic research in investigating the politics of identity, cultural citizenship (as opposed to strictly legal), and “public culture” in various neighborhoods and communities throughout Southern California, a region of complex diversity. Each student will: 1) design an ethnographic project; and 2) conduct an individual ethnography that will be reviewed by fellow students, and eventually, will be presented in class. This structure allows students to engage a wide-range of interests while developing critical ethnographic skills, such as engaging another’s perspective “on its own terms,” while developing one’s own critical intellectual perspective through written and oral communication.

Creating an environment that enables discursive engagement among various (if, at times, competing) perspectives, is a highly valuable skill within many fields related to Ethnic Studies and Urban Planning—and certainly, in life. Thus, building an invigorating intellectual community based on respectful engagement among peers is thoughtfully integrated into the class, and is meant to serve as on-going practice for your ethnographic experiences “in the field.” After all, ethnographic research is a collaborative endeavor of sorts, involving the participants, your peer reviewers, and others; however, “authorial reflexivity” on the relationship of power and authority in the “production of knowledge” (i.e. project design, data collection, interpretation, and writing) will ultimately shape how ethnographic research is created (by the author), used (by academia, elected officials, city planning departments, real estate developers, community groups, etc), and to what end.

Various themes are interspersed throughout the course: social geography; access to resources and social mobility; neighborhood/ community formation and representation; cultural values; inter-ethnic relations; and finally, group mobilization. Specifically, lectures will focus on developing critical theoretical perspectives on ethnographic research raised in course material (readings and films), as well as reviewing peer projects at various times during the term. In the field, students will practice critical listening, observing, and analyzing, and will also engage research through participation and conversation. Thus, discussion sections will provide an environment for “troubleshooting” course material and student projects, as well as assessing student participation in contributing appropriately and extensively to section discussion (i.e. giving and receiving peer feedback.)

## **Readings**

Both required books are available for purchase at Groundwork Books, located south of Mandeville Auditorium, and all books are on reserve at Geisel Library.

1. *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History* by Dolores Hayden
2. *Youthsapes: The Popular, the National, the Global* edited by Sunaina Maira and Elisabeth Soep
3. Readings on E-Reserve
4. RECOMMENDED: *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* by Robert M. Emerson, Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw

(Note: Mike Davis, Jim Miller, and Kelly Mayhew's *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* is optional reading, but may be helpful for student projects focused on the San Diego region.)

## **Course Assignments**

1. 15% Class/ Section Attendance & Participation
2. 25% Field Observation Paper
3. 25% Interview Paper
4. 35% Ethnography "First Draft," Final Paper, and Presentation

\* *Late papers and assignments will not be accepted without consent of Teaching Assistant.*

\* *To pass this course and/or receive a final grade, all course requirements must be completed satisfactorily.*

## **Course Schedule**

(All readings must be done prior to attending discussion sections.)

# **INTRODUCTION TO ETHNOGRAPHY**

## **Week 1**

- *The Power of Place*, preface to p. 78 (on "urban landscape history" and "place memory")

## **Week 2**

- *The Power of Place*, p.138 to 238 (selected case studies)
- Identify research topic/sites for your project

## **Week 3**

### **On Project Design**

Guest Lecture 1/23/07: Michelle Magalong, UCLA Urban Planning  
(UCSD alumni in Ethnic Studies/ Urban Studies & Planning, 2001)

- Magalong, Michelle, “ The Search for ‘P-town’: Filipino American Place(s) in Los Angeles” (UCLA Critical Planning Journal, Summer 2003)
- Manalansan IV, Martin F., “The Biyuti and Drama of Everyday Life” in *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora* (Durham: Duke University Press) 2003.

## **COLLECTING DATA**

### Week 4      **Participation Observation I: Taking Field Notes**

- “Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research” (p.1-16) and “In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes” (p.17-38) in *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* by Robert M. Emerson, Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) 1995.

### Week 5      **Participant Observation II: Locating Self and Subject**

- Field Observation Papers due Thursday, 2/8/07 in lecture
- “Race, Multiculturalism, and Pedagogies of Dissent” in *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Durham: Duke University Press) 2003.
- “After Objectivism” in *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis* (Boston: Beacon Press) 1993.

## **INTERVIEW I.**

### Week 6

- *Youthscapes*, Foreward to p. 81

## **INTERVIEW II.**

### Week 7

- *Youthscapes*, p.85 to 213

## **WRITING ETHNOGRAPHY**

### Week 8

- Interview papers due Tuesday 2/27/07 in lecture
- E-Reserve TBA

### Week 9

- E-Reserve TBA

### Week 10

- “First draft” due Tuesday, 3/13/07 in lecture
- Revision workshops in sections

## **FINAL PAPER & PRESENTATIONS (10 minutes)**

**\*\*Tuesday, 3/20/07, 11:30am -2:29pm\*\***