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‘Ghetto Schools’ in the Public Imagination

Ethnic Studies 87: Fresh Seminar, Winter 2007

Mondays 3:00-4:50 p.m. Social Sciences Building 102

Course Description

This course examines the problematic label of the “ghetto” and its euphemisms (“urban”, “inner city”, etc.) that have been placed on poor, urban, largely minority communities, and the impact that such labeling has on schooling policies, pedagogy and outcomes. As a point of departure, we will begin with the archetype of the “ghetto school” in popular media, through a critical analysis of films, music, literature, and art.

Requirements

Attendance: Perfect attendance is mandatory for passing this class.

Class participation: Participate respectfully in all class discussions. Engage the theories studied in the class, and apply these analytical frameworks in your comments.

Class notes: 5 pages of handwritten notes – or equivalent – per class meeting (15 pages total). Due on the last day of class. Will be available for pickup at the Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB.

Course Outline

January 22

Week 1: Hollywood Archetypes: Mythologies, Pathologies and Authenticities

January 29

Week 2: Schooling Ideologies & A Brief History of Public Schooling in the U.S.

January 29: 10:10 pm

Optional class in lieu of final exam

10:10 showing of Freedom Writers at AMC La Jolla

Midnight: Post-film Discussion at Ralph’s

February 5

Week 3: Documentaries: Why Teach?

February 12

Week 4: Final Exam

Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.