

University of California, San Diego

ETHN 107/USP 130
Ethnographic Fieldwork in Racial and Ethnic Communities

Professor Lisa Sun-Hee Park, Ph.D.

Spring 2005, T&TH 12:30-1:50pm

Office: SSB 220

Office hours: T 3:30-5pm & TH 2-3:30pm

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Course Description

Ethnography is a form of qualitative research that involves a detailed study of the life and activities of a group of people. Using hands-on fieldwork exercises, this course will critically explore the methodological challenges, insights, and politics of ethnographic research in urban/suburban San Diego. In doing so, we will focus on the everyday experiences of race, class, gender, and/or sexuality within urban settings. You are required to not only read and critique other people's ethnographic research but also conduct your own case study.

Course Requirements

This is an intensive writing and critical thinking course that will require your full attendance and active participation. Please come prepared to critically engage with the readings, class discussion, and your own on-going research experience. Late papers and assignments are not acceptable.

Participant observation exercises (4x, 5 pgs each, typed)	40%
Critical reflection paper (3-5 pgs)	10%
Data analysis paper (3-5 pgs)	10%
Presentation of case study	10%
Final ethnographic portfolio	30%

- It is very important that you keep all the assignments and exercises well organized throughout the course so that you can submit them in its entirety as part of your final ethnographic portfolio at the end of class. This final portfolio will include the two papers—both the earlier draft and its revision—and the participant observation write-ups and materials for the presentation. In addition, there will be a written introduction (5 pages) to accompany all the materials in the portfolio summarizing your project, the major themes within your project, what you got out of the ethnographic exercises, and potential future directions/questions.

- Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with me during the first two weeks of class.
- It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor *in advance* of any scheduling conflicts. Due dates are only negotiable for emergencies and/or multiple exam scheduling as stated by university policy.
- Please familiarize yourself with the university policy on plagiarism. All materials used must be appropriately cited.
- An interactive classroom environment is an important part of my teaching-learning philosophy. Mutual respect, cooperation, and participation form the basis of this environment. By the very nature of the course topic, there will likely be a wide range of opinions, many of which may be rooted in your personal experiences. That is fine. A good classroom environment is supposed to stimulate you to think for yourselves and challenge paradigms and raise critical questions. However, please keep in mind that we must engage each other in a respectful and considerate debate in the classroom.
- Note: I reserve the right to revise the contents of this syllabus at any given time (with due notice, of course).

Required Readings

Ethnography Unbound: Power and Resistance in the Modern Metropolis by Michael Burawoy et al.

Structuring Diversity: Ethnographic Perspectives on the New Immigration edited by Louise Lamphere.

Books are available at Groundwork Books.

Course Outline

March 29: Introduction

March 31: Finding a research site
Read *Structuring Diversity*, Introduction & ch.1

April 5: Read *Structuring Diversity*, chs. 2, 3, 4

April 7: Read *Structuring Diversity*, chs. 5 & 6

April 12: Participant Observation #1 Due

April 14: Class Discussion

April 19: Participant Observation #2 Due

- April 21:** Fieldwork – No Class
- April 26:** Participant Observation #3 Due
- April 28:** Fieldwork – No Class
- May 3:** Participant Observation #4 Due
- May 5:** Read *Ethnography Unbound*, Part I (pgs. 29-80)
- May 10:** Read *Ethnography Unbound*, Part II (pgs. 81-132)
- May 12:** Critical reflection Paper – Draft Due
- May 17:** Read *Ethnography Unbound*, Part III (pgs. 133-178)
- May 19:** Discuss *Ethnography Unbound*
- May 24:** Presentations
Data Analysis Paper – Draft Due
- May 26:** Presentations
- May 31:** Presentations
- June 2:** Presentations

Final Ethnographic Portfolio Due Date TBA