

Community Ethnography I I: Practicum
Ethnic Studies 241B
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TBA

This course is designed to provide students with a practical experience in Community Ethnography. The focus of this practicum is participating in a team ethnography of Barrio Logan and Logan Heights in South San Diego. Participants in the course will form part of an ethnographic research team charged with conducting on-site ethnography. The broad goals of the research are (1) to identify and record the principal institutional foundations of the community, its members and primary needs 2) To identify participants for the oral history of Barrio Logan and its principal institutions and 3) to act as resources for the community. The critical focus of the course is ethnography. Participants will be required to conduct participant observation, ethnographic interviews and write an ethnographic report as part of the overall goal of the course. This will require a minimum of Six (6) hours on site each week. Each team member will have the opportunity of working in a specific field site from available possibilities and will schedule his/her time on site. All consideration will be given to participant's interests when appropriate to the research goals. Class meetings(when appropriate) will serve as a forum to discuss methodology, ongoing research, findings and problems encountered in the field.

Training in ethnographic field research will be ongoing through in-class assignments, discussions and "on the job training". In addition to the actual on-site fieldwork, participants are required to keep a field note journal turned in at the end of the class.

All participants will write an ethnographic report based on the research conducted. Final ethnographic reports will be submitted to the appropriate community individuals and organizations.

There are few reading assignments that will serve the purpose of orienting participants in conducting both participant observation and qualitative interviews. In addition to orientation, the purpose of the readings is for reference and guidelines in the fieldwork experience.

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. Readings
2. 6 hour minimum of on site ethnography per week.
3. A field note journal of observations, etc.
3. Interviews (5 general/2 in depth)
4. Field reports/ team discussion meetings (class periods)
5. Final Ethnographic Report

Week 1

April 2.

Introduction

- Overview of class requirements
- Objectives of Project

Site Orientation

- Doing Ethnography and the Ethnographic Report
- Discussion, Questions concerning project
- The Field Note Journal.

Reading: Spradley, Participant Observation 1-129 (omit Domain Analysis (85-100) and Taxonomic Analysis (112-122))

Week 2

April 9 On Site: TBA and Participant Observation. Archival work on institutions (The Neighborhood House (Family Clinic), VFW, Cannery

Week 3

April 16 Site placement and orientation

Week 4

April 23 On Site: Participant Observation

Week 5

April 30 Team Meeting

- Update on Ethnographic progress
- Review Field notes/Development of Interview Guides

Week 6

May 7 On Site: Participant Observation/ Identify Key Consultants
-Reading: Spradley: The Ethnographic Interview TBA

Week 7

May 14 On Site: P.O./Interviews

- Team meeting: -Field Note Review
-Field Progress discussion

Week 8

May 21 On Site: P.O./Interviews

- Final Reports/ Outlines

Week 9

May 28 On Site: -Field reconnaissance; -Begin write-up for final reports

Week 10

June 4 On Site: Field reconnaissance.

Team Meeting: Discussion/final report/-Write Up

Finals Week: Final Reports/Field Note Journals Due.

-Party time.!

Recommended Texts

Spradley, James P.

1979 The Ethnographic Interview. San Francisco: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

1980 Participant Observation. San Francisco: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.