

**Research Seminar in Ethnic Studies**  
**Ethnic Studies 210**  
**Spring 2006**

Roberto Alvarez  
SSB223  
[oloberto@ucsd.edu](mailto:oloberto@ucsd.edu)  
534-1739

This seminar is designed to present the basic foundations of research design and to explore your own ideas about how to plan research. The specific objective here is the production of a research prospectus. Within this context we will examine the role of insider or indigenous researchers, the ethics of involvement, and the application of experiential knowledge to research problems. Class periods will be devoted to both required readings and your own progress in designing a research topic.

**Introduction**

April 3 – Introduction. The structure of research design. Overview of readings and assignments.

**Part I: Indigenous paradigms and ethics**

April 13- Reading assignment: Medicine Part 1-4,

Written assignment: (1) reading summary and questions, (2) Preliminary research idea (about one double-spaced page, but not to exceed two pages). Be prepared to discuss this in class.

April 20- Doing Indigenous research@

Medicine Part 4-6, Appendices;

Written assignment: reading summary and questions

April 27- Ethics: Harrison, AAA, Mills, Limon, Abu-Lughod,

Written Assignments: (1) Reading questions. (2) Preliminary draft of Initial research plan. Be prepared to discuss this in class.

**Part II. Analyzing Research Design**

May 4- Reading assignment: *All Our Kin*-

Written assignment: (1) analysis and questions.(2) Abstract and annotated bibliography of primary literature on your research topic.

May 11- Reading assignment: *Fit to Be Citizens*

Written assignment: analysis and questions

May 18- Reading assignment: *A Thrice Told Tale*

Written assignment: (1) analysis and questions (2) Research topic, focus and framework.

May 25-- Reading assignment: *Basta*

Written assignment: (1) analysis and questions (2) Proposed methodology and significance

June 1- Reading assignment: *Wisdom Sits in Places*

Written assignment: (1) analysis and questions

June 8 - Written assignment: Final Research Prospectus/Party Time

**Required assignments:** As outlined above each participant in the class will be required to come prepared to discuss reading assignments, and to turn in various written assignments.

**Part I: Indigenous paradigms and ethics**

(April 13- May 4) For each class period reading a double spaced typewritten critique/review of one to two pages.

**Part II. Analyzing Research Design :**

(May 11- June 15) A double spaced analysis not to exceed two pages of **each text** to address the following when appropriate:

What is the purpose of the research? Where and how did the research originate? What questions frame and organize the argument and discussion of the author? How was the study/research conducted (what methods were used)? Where and of what significance is the place, @ people, or community or research site? Why is this research and or study relevant and significant to ethnic studies and social science? How does this relate to your own research?

**The Research Prospectus.** In order to construct a research prospectus each participant will turn in periodical assignments:

April 13- Preliminary Research Topic

April 27- Preliminary Draft of Research Plan

May 11- Annotated Bibliography of research topic (to be explained in class)

May 25- Second Draft of Research Topic/Question and supporting literature

June 1- Draft of proposed methodology and significance

June 15- Final Research Prospectus.

Grading: Class Participation 30%; Reading summaries and written assignments 30%; Final Research Prospectus 40%.

**Required Texts:**

Basso, Keith *Wisdom Sits in Places*, University of New Mexico Press:1996

Collier, George A. *Basta*. Food First Press. 1999

Medicine, Bea. *Learning to be an Anthropologist and Remaining ANative@* University of Illinois Press, 2001

Molina, Natalia *Fit to Be Citizens.* University of California Press, 2006

Stack, Carol *All Our Kin,* Basic Books: 1997.

Wolf, Margery, *A Thrice Told Tale. Feminism, Postmodernism and Ethnographic Responsibility,* Stanford University Press:1992

**Articles (to be distributed)**

Abu-Lughod, Lila

1994 Writing Against Culture in *Recapturing Anthropology.* Richard G. Fox ed. School of American Research: Santa Fe, 135-162

American Anthropological Association

1973 (1946,1952) AResolutions@, in *To See Ourselves,* ed. Thomas Weaver. Scott, Foresman and Company: Glenview Ill.43-45.

1973(1970) Principals of Professional Responsibility. in *To See Ourselves,* ed. Thomas Weaver. Scott, Foresman and Company: Glenview Ill. 46-48.

Harrison, Faye

1991 Ethics and Ethnography. In *Decolonizing Anthropology.* Ed. Faye Harrison, American Anthropological Association: Washington D.C.

Limon, Jose.

1994 Representation, Ethnicity, and the Precursory Ethnography. Notes of a Native Anthropologist. in *Recapturing Anthropology.* Richard G. Fox ed. School of American Research: Santa Fe, 115-135.

Mills, C. Wright

1973(1959) On Politics in *To See Ourselves,* ed. Thomas Weaver. Scott, Foresman and Company: Glenview Ill. 10-18.