

**Research Methods: Studying Racial and Ethnic Communities**  
**ETHN 190/USP 129**  
**Winter 2009**  
**WLH 2204, MWF 1:00-1:50pm**

**Prof. Gabriel N. Mendes**

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\*Please write "190/129" in the subject line or the e-mail might be directed to my spam folder.

**Office Phone:** 858-822-5118

**Office Hours:** Monday, 2:30-4:30pm & Friday, 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistant	Section Day/Time	Section Day/Time	Office Hours & Location
Long Bui ltbui@dss.ucsd.edu	A01 M 11:00 A 11:50	A02 M 12:00 P 12:50	W 2:00 P-3:00 P. and M 2:00 P-4:00P SSB 248
Eugene Gambol egambol@ucsd.edu	A03 F 11:00 A 11:50	A04 F 12:00 P 12:50	M 2:15 P- 3:45P and W 2:15 - 3:45 P Location SSB 245

**Course Description**

The goal of this course is to prepare students to engage in interdisciplinary research that studies the lived experience of race and ethnicity in various urban communities. By surveying a variety of literature that addresses the problem of method, students will be well equipped to conduct independent and group research projects in the future.

In this course students will be introduced to "fieldwork" methods and examine issues raised in the context of conducting qualitative (i.e. ethnographic) research in U.S. racial and ethnic communities. Particular attention will be paid to the following topics: the human element in conducting fieldwork, the past scholarly treatment of racialized minorities (the politics of ethnography), the "insider-outsider" debates, the participation of community members in academic research projects. While these elements of fieldwork have been debated for several decades, they continue to be raised by current practitioners and theorists in the human sciences. Conceptualizing a fieldwork project and the appropriate methods for carrying out the study are central components of the course.

**Required Texts** (Available at Groundwork Bookstore: 858.452.9625)

Van Maanen, John. *Tales of the Field: On Writing Ethnography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988.

**Course Reader** (available through University Readers:

<http://www.universityreaders.com/students>)

**Course Requirements**

Attendance and Participation:	20% (more than 2 absences will result in a failing grade)
Methodological Analysis Paper I	20%
Methodological Analysis Paper II	20%
Research Proposal Paper (final)	40%

*Attendance, Participation, Reading:* I expect each student to attend all class sessions and attend the discussion sections for which you are signed up. Since each regular class session will consist of a lecture and discussion it is vital that you keep up with the reading so that you can contribute to the class. You should expect to spend at least four to five hours per week on the assigned readings, as the average number of pages per week is between 80 and 100. Please feel free to see me and/or the teaching assistants to discuss strategies for productive reading for the course.

*Methodological Analysis Papers:* In these papers students will critically examine two to three articles/chapters from the assigned reading. These papers will analyze the authors' methods and their theoretical orientations regarding the study of racialized communities in the U.S. The objective of these papers will be the comparative analysis of different methodological approaches taken by authors we will read.

*Research Proposal:* The proposal consists of a comprehensive presentation of a feasible research project on a topic generated from the assigned readings and the individual interests of the students in this course. The proposal will include a presentation of the topic/problem; a survey of the relevant literature on that topic/problem; a methodological discussion; and discussion of possible/expected findings based upon the preceding sections of the proposal.

\* *Late papers and assignments will not be accepted.*

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

\* *Detailed paper guidelines will be handed out in section and discussed in lectures.*

## **Schedule**

\**All readings must be done prior to attending sections.*

### **Week 1—Race in the Human Sciences**

January 5-9

- Burgett, Bruce and Hendler, Glenn, eds. *Keywords for American Cultural Studies* (New York and London: NYU Press, 2007): "Community," "Diaspora," "Ethnicity," "Race"
- Du Bois, W.E.B., "The Study of the Negro Problems," Pp. 1-23.
- Ellison, Ralph, "An American Dilemma: A Review," Pp.328-340.
- Kelley, Robin D.G., "Looking for the 'Real' Nigga: Social Scientists Construct the Ghetto," Pp.16-42.

### **Week 2—The Epistemology of Qualitative Research: Knowledge of/for What?**

January 12-16

- Becker, Howard, "The Epistemology of Qualitative Research," Pp.53-71.
- Abu-Lughod, Lila, "Writing Against Culture," Pp. 135-162.

- Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson, “Culture, Power, Place: Ethnography at the End of an Era,” Pp. 1-29.

### **Week 3—Politics of Studying Racial and Ethnic Communities**

January 21-23

- Harrison, Faye V., “Ethnography as Politics,” Pp. 88-109.
- De Genova, Nicholas, “Decolonizing Ethnography,” Pp. 13-55.
- Vo, Linda Trinh, “Performing Ethnography in Asian American Communities: Beyond the Insider-versus-Outsider Perspective,” Pp. 17-37.

No class meeting on Monday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Week 4 and 5—Themes in Urban Ethnography: Cultural Citizenship and Urban Space**

January 26-30

- Ong, Aihwa, “Cultural Citizenship as Subject-Making: Immigrants Negotiate Racial and Cultural Boundaries in the United States,” Pp. 737-762. [Download Through JSTOR UCSD Restricted Access]
- Manalansan, Martin F. IV, “Race, Violence, and Neoliberal Spatial Politics in the Global City,” Pp. 141-155. [Download Through Project Muse UCSD Restricted Access]

February 2-6

- Davila, Arlene, “‘El Barrio es de Todos’: Predicaments of Culture and Place,” Pp. 59-96.
- Espiritu, Yen Le, “Home Making” and “Homes, Borders, and Possibilities,” Pp. 1-22 and Pp. 205-222.

*First Methodological Analysis Papers due Monday, Jan. 26 (4-5 pages)
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### **Week 6—Themes in Urban Ethnography: Language, Education, and Youth**

February 9-13

- Maira, Sunaina, “The Intimate and the Imperial: South Asian Muslim Immigrant Youth After 9/11,” Pp. 64-81.
- Pollock, Mica, “Race Bending: ‘Mixed’ Youth Practicing Strategic Racialization in California,” Pp. 43-63.
- Alim, H. Samy, “Preface,” “Introduction,” and “How the Other Half Speaks: Ethnosensitivity and the Shifting Roles of the Researcher,” Pp. xiii-xxv; 1-13, 39-77.

### **Week 7—Themes in Urban Ethnography: Race, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Health**

February 18-21

- Mullings, Leith, “Resistance and Resilience: The Sojourner Syndrome and the Social Context of Reproduction in Central Harlem,” Pp. 345-370.
- Cohen, Cathy, “Preface” and “Marginalization: Power, Identity, and Membership,” Pp. ix-xii and 33-77.
- Ong, Aihwa, “Making the Biopolitical Subject: Cambodian Immigrants, Refugee Medicine, and Cultural Citizenship in California,” Pp. 85-112.

No class meeting on Monday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>.

\*Second Methodological Analysis Paper Due Friday, Feb. 21(4-5 pages)

**Week 8—New Directions in Critical Ethnography: Teaching Assistant Lectures**

February 23-27

- Chun, Wendy, “Orienting Orientalism, or How to Map Cyberspace,” Pp. 3-36.
- Further Reading TBA

**Week 9—Writing Ethnography**

March 2-6

- Wolf, Margery. “Writing Ethnography: The Poetics and Politics of Culture,” Pp. 127-139.
- Van Maanen, John. *Tales of the Field: On Writing Ethnography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988. (Selections)

Outline of Research Proposal Due in Section

**Week 10—Revision Workshops/Presentations**

\*March 20: Final Proposal due (8-10 pages)

**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](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).