

Mexican Migration Field Research and Training Program Winter 2015

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Administrative Details

Undergraduates register as: LATI 122A Graduate

students register as: LATI 222A

Class meetings: Thursdays, 1:00-3:50pm, ERC 115

Center for Comparative Immigration Studies (CCIS), ground floor, Eleanor Roosevelt College Academic Administration Building

Course structure and requirements

In Winter Quarter 2014 students will conduct field interviews in a high-migration town in rural Yucatán, México and its satellite communities in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. In Spring Quarter, students will analyze the field data they collected and co-author a publishable paper or book chapter based on these data.

Participation in all field work tasks and attendance at all class meetings is absolutely essential. We ask that you do not schedule any conflicting activities during the academic year. Any unavoidable absence (e.g., due to medical or family emergencies, out of town job interviews) must be cleared with the instructors by e-mail in advance of the class meeting.

Course Assignments

Assignments should be e-mailed to Micah Gell-Redman at mgellred@ucsd.edu, unless otherwise indicated. Please refer to the course schedule below for due dates.

1. **Field notes:** All students will keep a journal of field notes during their time in the Yucatán. The purpose of the field notes is to record substantive and methodological concerns that arise during the field work, along with personal observations. Field notes can serve as an important repository of insights when the time comes to analyze the data gathered in the field.
 2. **Group reflection:** Each group will produce a document immediately following the Mexican field work in which the group takes stock of their originally proposed research question in light of the field work. What has changed about the proposed approach? Do some of the proposed hypotheses appear
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to be stronger than others? Were there obstacles to data collection for any of the items proposed by the group?

3. **Interpretive guide for qualitative interviews:** At the same time as the group reflection, each group will generate a document describing how the qualitative interviews conducted in the field will be interpreted or “coded” by group members.
4. **Analysis plan:** Each group will generate an analysis plan including:
 - Statement of the research questions the group will pursue
 - Brief description of the data the group plans to use (qualitative vs. quantitative , important questionnaire items, indexes, etc.)
 - Plan for analyzing the data (types of comparisons to be made, coding exercises, modeling, etc.)
5. **First data request:** A formal request for the data to be analyzed, using the template presented in class lecture.

Grading

10% Complete online human subjects training:

<https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=154&icat=0&clear=1>

10% Field notes

10% Group reflection

10% Interpretive guide

10% Analysis plan

10% Data request

30% Participation in Mexico and U.S. Fieldwork

Office Hours

Professor Cornelius: By appointment

Micah Gell-Redman: By appointment

Course Website

There is no official website for the course. Some lectures will be posted to Micah Gell-Redman's website, micahgellredman.com. Others will be circulated by e-mail. All assignment submissions will be made to the instructors by e-mail.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Jan. 8)

Class meeting

Complete online human subjects training:

<https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=154&icat=0&clear=1>

Week 2 (Jan. 15)

Class meeting

Week 3 (Jan. 22)

Class meeting

Weeks 4-5 (Jan. 24-Feb. 6)

No class meetings

Fieldwork in Yucatan

Field notes due by Feb. 5

Week 6 (Feb. 12)

No class meeting

California fieldwork begins weekend of Feb. 13, continues through March 8.

Week 7 (Feb. 19)

Class meeting: Debrief ongoing California Fieldwork

Group reflection *and* interpretive guide due Feb. 19.

Week 8 (Feb. 26)

Class meeting

Lecture: Quantitative Analysis, Part 1

U.S. fieldwork continues.

Week 9 (Mar. 5)

Class meeting

Lecture: Quantitative Analysis, Part 2: Preparing and submitting data requests

Working groups discuss plans for data analysis

Sunday, March 8: final day of California fieldwork.

Week 10 (Mar. 12)

Class meeting

Lecture - Qualitative analysis

Analysis plan *and* first data request due March 18.

Survey data will be sent out during spring break. In-class presentations based on the data will be made at the first class meeting of Spring Quarter.
