

Research in Ethnic Studies
Ethnic Studies 191 - Fall 2009

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Course Description

Research in Ethnic Studies 191 is designed to prepare you to build the skills and techniques to transfer your interests into strong research projects. You all bring specific knowledge and ideas to the theme you will be pursuing, but this course will provide you with the appropriate methods and procedures to plan, design and carry out research. In this course we will work through each stage of designing a research project. This includes defining a topic in an area of your interest; mastering the relevant literature; honing your interests into a research subject; developing generative research questions; and selecting appropriate methods and materials that best address your research questions.

You will learn by actually producing a research proposal which will guide you through your Honors research project. Throughout the quarter you will use and develop critical and analytical skills that will help you work through the common problems involved in research design. You will also engage your fellow Honors classmates in discussion, as well as guests who will present their research projects and research methodologies.

A crucial part of the Honors Research is selecting an appropriate mentor to guide your research in winter and fall quarters. We will discuss the choosing of mentors and how you can get the most out working with the faculty person you select.

The course objectives are:

1. To develop the primary skills to plan and conduct an honors research project
2. To produce a formal Honors project prospectus and,
3. To develop a working relationship with a faculty mentor who will oversee and guide your work through ETHN 192 (winter) and ETHN 193 (spring).

At the end of the year, successful research projects will earn “Honors in Ethnic Studies” upon graduation.

Student Responsibilities

Attend all classes and complete all assignments by their due date. Actively participate in class discussions and provide constructive feedback on your classmates' projects.

The grade for this course will be cumulative and based on the level of your effort in the course, your participation in class meetings, and the final quality of your Prospectus, as follows:

50% = class attendance, participation, and written assignments

50% = final research prospectus

Class Schedule

Week 1—September 30: Introduction and Planning

- Introductions
- Discussion of research interests and topics
- Beginning to plan a research project.
- Guest speakers: Patricia Sohn, Zain Shirazi, and Alva Monsalvo (08-09 Honors students)

Week 2 – October 7: Guidelines for the Research Proposal/ Prospectus and the research question

- Discussion of Research topics: from broad topics to focused researchable questions
- The Research Prospectus (Question, Review of Literature, Methodology, Significance)
- Writing a review of the literature (historical context; recent studies; useful theory); preparing an annotated bibliography

Assignment: (1) Read Chapter 3 in Booth *et al's* *Craft of Research* (E-Reserve); (2) write a brief description of your research topic that explains what you are writing about; what you don't know about it; and why you want your reader to know about it (see Booth's ch. 3); (3) bring 3 copies of your research topic to class to discuss in break-out groups.

Week 3-- October 14: Library resources meeting

- Library resources meeting with librarian Alanna Aiko Moore (10-12:50)
This class will meet at Geisel Library—Please meet Alanna at the Information Desk immediately inside the main Geisel building for a quick tour of the Social Science and Humanities Library. Afterwards, please proceed to the Science and Engineering Library Instruction Room for the rest of the class.

Assignment: (1) Email your revised general research topic to Alanna Aiko Moore aamoore@library.ucsd.edu by Monday, October 12; (2) Read Ch. 6 in *Craft of Research* (E-Reserve)

Week 4 – October 21: Research, the Literature Review, and the Research Prospect

- Hands-on work with Alanna Aiko Moore (10-11:30)—Science and Engineering Library Instruction Room.

Assignment: (1) Read Literature review handout

http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/literature_review.html

(2) Read http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_quarterly/v060/60.3.gutierrez.pdf as an example of a good literature review. Please note how the authors discuss the changing conversations in the field of transnational migration over time. (3) Annotated bibliography due: identify 3 research areas most relevant to your research topic; find 3 sources for each area; and write 1 annotated bibliography (select 1 out of the 3 sources) for each area.

Week 5 – October 28: Human Subjects, Ethics, Methodology and Research Reports

- Protecting Human Subjects
- Choosing and mixing methodologies to address a research question
- Writing Strategies
- Research design and methodology: Guest speaker, TBA

Assignment: (1) Write a 3-pp literature review and email to all class members by Monday Oct. 26; (2) read literature reviews of classmates for discussion and constructive criticism in class; (3) complete *online IRB course* and bring certificate to class.

Week 6 -- November 4: Research Reports and Discussion

- Class research updates (brief presentations of project progress/shape and major issues)
- Research Design and methodology: Guest speaker, TBA

Assignment: (1) Write Introduction and Methodologies (3-pp) that includes the followings:

- description of research topic and main research question(s) □
 - significance of your topic and research questions: what makes this an Ethnic Studies project?
 - discussion of methodologies proposed in response to the research questions. Be sure to explain why you have selected your particular method(s) and discuss its feasibility
 - overview of the information you will use as evidence in support of the arguments and how you are collecting, organizing, interpreting, and critically analyzing it □
- (2) E-mail your papers to all class members.

Week 7 – November 11 – NO CLASS (Veterans Holiday)

Assignment: Please make an appointment to meet with me this week.

Week 8: November 18-- Research Reports and Discussion

- Writing strategies
- Research design and methodology: Guest speakers: TBA
- Choosing a Mentor
- Human Subjects Application

Assignment: (1) Six students from Group 1 (TBD) will turn in their first draft of the

prospectus (2) Please email to all students by Wed. 11/18

Week 9 – November 25: First Drafts I – Presentation and Critique

- First draft presentations (Group 1)

Assignment: (1) Six students from Group 2 (TBD) will turn in their first draft of the prospectus; (2) Please email to all students by Wed. 11/25; (3) Please provide written critiques and comments for first six drafts.

Week 10 – November Dec 2: First Drafts II – Presentation and Critique

- First draft presentations (Group 2)

Assignment: (1) Please provide written critiques and comments for second set of drafts.
(2) Human Subjects submission (if needed)

Final Prospectus Due Wed. Dec 9 (Finals Week)