

## **Studies in the Latina/o Community: Ethnographic Practice in L.A.**

*Instructor: Richard Chabran*

Class Meetings: Tuesday-Thursday 4:00-5:50

2242 Public Policy

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 6:-7:00

Phone: 206-6052

Email: [chabran@latino.sscnet.ucla.edu](mailto:chabran@latino.sscnet.ucla.edu)

### **Course Description**

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the practice of ethnography. The class activities will revolve around planning and carrying out an ethnographic research project.

- An overview of bibliographic research and the handling of primary documents (including print and visual sources such as photographs, video) will be provided.
- Extensive exercises introducing students to journal and fieldnote writing as both a critical activity and a source of documenting the world will be incorporated.
- Students will co-construct an oral history.
- Selective short ethnographic case studies will be read and discussed.
- Assignments and reading will cover the following ethnographic methods and techniques: participant observation; interviewing; composing fieldnotes; and organizing data.
- During the course of the class we will discuss: the changing notions of self; participatory research; politics; the border as a site; citizenship; ethics; insider/outsider; gender representation etc.
- Fieldnotes will become an important part of class discussions in order to allow students to compare experiences, expand and be critical of their initial observations.
- Guest speakers will participate in the class.
- Students will be required to make several visits to a local Latino community.

### **Course Requirements**

Assignments are cumulative and will be integrated into the final papers. Grading is composed of the following sections:

- Extensive Fieldnotes in a local community 20%
- Bibliography 5%
- Computer and writing assignments 25%
- Life/Oral History; 20%
- Research Paper 20%
- Class participation 10%. Consistent participation is essential.

## **Required Texts and Computer Accounts**

Emerson, Robert M. et al. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Thomas, Jim. *Doing Critical Ethnography*, Newbury Park: Sage, 1993.

"Studies in the Chicana/o Community" Reader

Students are also required to have an active Bruin On-line Account

Students are encouraged to purchase a hand held cassette recorder.

### ***Ethnographic Practice in the Latino Community: Course Outline***

April 2, 1996

#### **The Research Process**

April 4, 1996

#### **Epistemology: Representation and the Competing Claims of Knowledge and Truth**

April 9, 1996

#### **Latino Los Angeles**

April 11, 1996

#### **Research Partial Committed Knowledge and Empowerment**

April 16, 1996

#### **Selecting a Site**

April 18, 1996

#### **Critical Ethnography**

April 23, 1996

#### **Fieldnotes**

April 25, 1996

**Participant Observation**

April 30, 1996

**Biography and Voice: Naming the World**

May 2, 1996

**The Practice of Interviewing and biographical co-construction**

May 7, 1996

**Presentation and Discussion of Interviews**

May 9, 1996

**Issues: Insiders Outsiders and Ethics**

May 14, 1996

**Thematic Development**

May 16, 1996

**Writing Up Themes**

May 21, 1996

**Historical Context**

May 23, 1996

**Demographic and Socio-Economic Indicators**

May 28, 1996

**Community Organizations**

May 30, 1996

**Designing Qualitative Research**

June 4, 1996

**Oral Presentations**

June 6, 1996

**Oral Presentations**