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
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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


"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