

## Ethnic Studies 289: Methods 1: Historical Methods

Fall Quarter 2008

### **Prof. Natalia Molina**

**Office:** Social Science Building 226

**Mailbox:** Department of Ethnic Studies, Social Science Building 201

E-mail is the best way to contact me: [nmolina@weber.ucsd.edu](mailto:nmolina@weber.ucsd.edu)

**Office Phone:** 858.822.1580

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 2:15-3:15, Thursdays 10:45-12:45, and by appointment

**Course objectives:** This course has three goals: 1) We will read historical monographs and examine how these authors have used historical methods but also read them through Ethnic Studies lenses. 2) We will seek to understand the techniques and tools historians use in creating a historical narrative. We will take these historical tools and pair them with our Ethnic Studies lenses. We will look at how to find and choose sources, how to read them, and how to piece them together to create a narrative. 3) As such, you will produce your own abbreviated research papers (15 pages). The course is too short to expect an article length research paper. Instead, you will be expected to produce a primary source based-paper that examines a well-defined topic and provide contextualization for that topic.

In addition to the course readings, students should expect to spend at least 3-4 hours weekly on library research and electronic database searches and 7-8 hours on weeks when reading is not assigned. Beginning week 3, students share their research goals for the week in class and provide an update the next week of their progress. This is an exercise in creating a game-plan for your research, as well as setting small, realizable goals.

Your final paper is a chance to work with primary sources. It is not a prospectus. It is not a fully-developed research paper. It is an abbreviated and thoughtful research paper. That being said, your final paper should include:

- Your research question and an explanation of how this has (or has not) been looked at in the literature thus requiring an overview of the literature.
- A discussion of your methodology, how and why you chose your primary sources, and your analysis of your sources.

In addition, in order to facilitate discussion, I would like all students to present at least one oral report during the quarter. "Oral report" does not mean an exhaustive analysis of a text but a short (5-10 minutes) summary of the principle arguments, followed by some questions that you would like the class to discuss. I will solicit volunteers each week to help in this effort.

For those of you are not giving an oral report on a given day, bring a short response to the readings to class. Papers should include talking points, questions you had while doing the readings, and questions for the class.

### **Course requirements:**

- To develop an archival-based response paper using the research skills we learned in weeks two and three and couched in the readings and discussions (6-7 pages). **Due October 28.**
- To develop a longer (15 pages) research paper out of the research skills we learned in weeks two and three and bringing in the readings and discussions from the course.
- To develop a primary source bibliography which explains 1) where you are finding your primary sources and 2) what the strengths and potential weaknesses of those sources are 3) include a section on secondary sources on your topic and discuss the primary sources you can mine from these sources. You can think of this as part progress report/part game-plan. **Due November 18**
- Facilitate a class discussion on the readings paying special attention to how we read sources and methodologies.

**Books:**

Miles, Tiya. *Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

Mitchell, Pablo. *Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 2005.

Alvarez, Luis. *The Power of the Zoot: Youth Culture and Resistance During World War II*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.

Books are available at Groundwork Bookstore (452-9625).

The articles and book chapters are on e-reserves.

**September 30, Week 1: Archives as knowledge production**

Stoler, Ann. "Colonial Archives and the Arts of Governance." *Archival Science* 2, no. 2 (2002): 87-109.

Harris, Verne, "The Archival Sliver: Power, Memory, and Archives in South Africa," *Archival Science* 2: 63–86, 2002.

Schwartz and Cook, "Archives, Records, and Power: The Making of Modern Memory," *Archival Science* 2: 1–19, 2002.

Lisa Lowe, "The Intimacies of Four Continents," in Stoler, Ann Laura. *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

**October 7, Week 2: Research Fundamentals with Alanna Aiko Moore, Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies Librarian, in Library Classroom 1/Room 274**

We will develop a list of resources that are suitable for our research including using dissertations as resources, navigating websites, using government documents.

Burton, Antoinette M. *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005, 1-24.

Thomas Bender, "Introduction: Historians, the Nation and the Plentitude of Narratives" in *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, pp. 1-12; 19-21

Peter Fritzsche, "The Archive and the Case of the German Nation," in *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, 184-208.

**October 14, Week 3:** Special Collections and Archives with Lynda Claassen, Head of Mandeville Special Collections Library, in Mandeville Special Collections Library.  
How do we begin research? How do we identify archives?

**Reading:** Blending historical and literary sources: Miles, Tiya. *Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

**Week 4, October 21:**

Mitchell, Pablo. *Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 2005.

**Week 5, October 28: Writing the Range: Sources and Categories**

Nayan Shah, "Adjudicating Intimacies on U.S. frontiers," in Stoler, Ann Laura. *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

Nayan Shah, "Between "Oriental Depravity" and "Natural Degenerates": Spatial Borderlands and the Making of Ordinary Americans," *American Quarterly*, Volume 57, Number 3, September 2005, pp. 703-725

Lisa Duggan, "Queering The State," *Social Text* 39 (Summer 1994): 1-14.

**Guest Speaker:** Nayan Shah

**First Paper due**

**Week 6, November 4: Re-working the Boundaries of a Field**

\* Please access these articles on-line

Special Issue of the *Pacific Historical Review* Nov 2007, Vol. 76, No. 4: Asian American History in Transnational Perspective

Mae Ngai, "Asian American History Forum: Introduction," 533-536.

Erika Lee, "The "Yellow Peril" and Asian Exclusion in the Americas," 537-562.

Dorothy Fujita-Rony, "Water and Land: Asian Americans and the U.S. West," 563-574.

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, "Journeys for Peace and Liberation: Third World Internationalism and Radical Orientalism during the U.S. War in Vietnam," 575-584.

Thomas Bender, "Commentary: Widening the Lens and Rethinking Asian American History," 605-610.

**Week 7, November 11: No Class**

Please schedule a one-on-one meeting with Alanna Aiko Moore for this week so that you can fine-tune your searches.

**Week 8, November 18:**

Alvarez, Luis. *The Power of the Zoot: Youth Culture and Resistance During World War II*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.

**Guest Speaker:** Luis Alvarez

**Week 9, November 25: Bibliographic Software Management Systems, with Alanna Aiko Moore, Sociology, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies Librarian, in Library Classroom 1/Room 274**

**Week 10, December 2:** Presentations of primary sources and analysis to the class.

Finals Week- Papers Due

**Suggestions for Further Readings:**

**On Archives**

*History of the Human Sciences -Special volumes on archives: November 1998, Volume 11 (4) and November 1999, Volume 12 (4).*

Axel, Brian Keith. *From the Margins: Historical Anthropology and Its Futures*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002.

Burton, Antoinette M. *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.

Roque, Horacio. "A Living Archive of Desire: Teresita La Campesina and the Embodiment of Queer Latino Community Histories." In *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*, edited by Antoinette M. Burton. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.

Rosaldo, Renato. "Doing Oral History." *Social Analysis* 4 (September 1980): 91-.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston, Mass.: Beacon Press, 1995.