

Dr. Curtis Marez  
ETH 240, T 9:30-12:20, SSB 103  
Office Hours: W 1-3, TH 2-3

### **Ethnic Studies 240: Methods 1: Historical Methods**

This course is about historical methods, or how we narrate history and what difference it makes. While we will consider a range of historical approaches, our emphasis will be on methods of historical materialism, or the study of how material conditions influence racialized histories. We begin by reading important theories of historical materialism and we will try to understand them in their own terms and in relationship to their historical contexts. Next we will attempt to mobilize such theories as we turn attention to particular case studies. As a methods class in the interdisciplinary field of Ethnic Studies, the course combines perspectives from history but also from film and media studies, cultural studies, subaltern studies, queer of color critique, Indigenous studies and other disciplines and fields. As the same time, the course provides practical instruction in archival research, from finding and selecting archives, to grant writing, to nuts and bolts of working in special collections.

Students will produce a final 15-page research paper based on some sort of archival research. Your final paper should include: 1.) Your research question and an explanation of how this has (or has not) been looked at in the literature; and 2.) A discussion of your methodology, how and why you chose your primary sources, and your analysis of your sources. In preparation for the paper you will also turn in a paragraph locating an archive and briefly describing it, as well as a brief prospectus and bibliography. In addition, students will make a short (5-10 minute) oral presentation summarizing the principle arguments in the readings and posing questions for discussion. 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.

Most of the readings will be on electronic reserves or accessible from Project Muse via Roger. Martha Howell and Walter Prevenier's *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods* is for sale at the UCSD bookstore.

#### **Course Assignments**

##### **9/28 Introduction**

##### **10/5 Texts**

Howell and Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources*

Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History,"  
[http://www.efn.org/~dredmond/Theses\\_on\\_History.PDF](http://www.efn.org/~dredmond/Theses_on_History.PDF)  
Practicum: Local Archives

##### **10/12 Historical Materialism**

Benjamin, "Paris, Capital of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century"

Clyde Woods, "Katrina's World: Blues, Bourbon, and the Return to the Source" *American Quarterly* 61.3, Project Muse via Roger

Rosaura Sanchez, "The Mission as Heterotopia"

## 10/19 **Library Tutorial**

Meet at Geisel Library for a tutorial with Ethnic Studies Librarian Alanna Aiko Moore

## **Archive Paragraph Due**

### 10/26 **Subaltern Studies**

Florencia E. Mallon, "The Promise and Dilemma of Subaltern Studies: Perspectives from Latin American History," *American Historical Review*, December 1994

John Beverley, *Against Literature* (selections)

Ranjit Guha, "The Prose of Counterinsurgency"

### 11/2 **Religion and Politics**

Griffith and McAlister, *Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States*, *American Quarterly* 59.3, selections, Project Muse via Roger

*Critical Approaches to Religion and Politics*, *Radical History Review*, *Radical History Review* 2007.99 (Fall 2007) selections, <http://rhr.dukejournals.org/content/vol2007/issue99/>

### 11/9 **Sexuality and Power**

Scott Lauria Morgensen, "Settler Homonationalism: Theorizing Settler Colonialism within Queer Modernities," *GLQ* 16.1-2 (2010), Project Muse via Roger

Thaddeus Russell, "The Color of Discipline: Civil Rights and Black Sexuality," *American Quarterly* 60.1 (March 2008), Project Muse via Roger

*Queer Futures*, *Radical History Review* 2008.100 (Winter 2008), selections, <http://rhr.dukejournals.org/content/vol2008/issue100/>

## **Final Paper Prospectus and bibliography due (5 pages)**

### 11/16 **Migration**

*Nation and Migration*, *American Quarterly* 60.2, selections, Project Muse via Roger

### 11/23 **Global Indigeneity**

*Alternative Contact: Indigeneity, Globalism, and American Studies*, *American Quarterly* 62.3, Project Muse via Roger

### 11/30 **Visual Culture**

Shawn Michelle Smith, "Spectacles of Whiteness: The Photography of Lynching," electronic reserves

Curtis Marez, "Cesar Chavez, The United Farm Workers, and the History of *Star Wars*," electronic reserves

Richard Street, "The Photographer as Historian, the Historian as Photographer," electronic reserves

## 12/9 **Final Paper Due**