

Ethnic Studies 290A
Fall Quarter 2010

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Office hours: Tues. 11-12; Thurs 10-12

Recommended Reading:

Wendy Laura Belcher. *Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (Thousands Oaks, CA: Sage, January 2009).

Week 1: Design (9/28)

- * Introductions
- * Discussion of research interests and topics
- * Beginning to plan a research project
- * Setting goals for the group/quarter
- * Structure of introduction:
 - a) statement of the problem/background information; significance of the project; why this question is worth answering at all; how you came to this topic
 - b) literature review
 - c) research methodology; explain and justify the research methods to be employed
 - d) give the reader a sense of how the thesis is going to be organized

Week 2: Begin (10/5)

Assignments:

1) Reading List

The reading list for your project should consist of 10-15 works, books and articles of things you need to read for your project. Every week starting week 3, you will turn in an abstract for 1-2 of these works. In addition to the abstract, consider some quotes or points that you want to keep track of to maybe use in your work. You should turn in an abstract every week whether we meet or not. At the end of the quarter I should have 8 abstracts for each writer.

2) Abstract--Write an abstract of your thesis

Please email both reading list and abstract to the writing group by 5pm on Sunday (10/3)

Readings: Belcher, Week 1 (1-43, omit 11-17); Week 2 (55-62)

Week 3: Advancing Your Argument (10/12; class ends at 12:30 due to town hall)

Assignments: Write Introduction and Methodologies (3-5pp) that includes the followings:

- description of research topic and main research question(s) -- the *who, what, where, and when* of your project

- significance of your topic and research questions: what makes this an Ethnic Studies project? This is the *why* of your 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. What does this information get you? What does it not get you?

*** Note: starting this week, turn in your reading list abstract. Please email both project descriptions and abstracts by 5pm on Sunday (10/10)**

Readings: Belcher, Week 3.

Week 4. (10/19)

Assignment: Come to class having read and provided written comments on each of the project descriptions. Everyone will be asked to comment on each project description.

Write an *abstract* of each project, which you will return to the author.

Readings:

- How to write a literature review:
http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/literature_review.html
- 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.
- Belcher, Weeks 5 and 6

In-class writing

Week 5. NO CLASS (10/26)

WRITE LITERATURE REVIEW

Meet with your advisors

Readings: Belcher, week 7

Week 6. Lit Review (11/2)

Assignment: Draft literature review (5-7pp). Please email to class by 5pm on Sunday (10/31). The literature review contains an interpretive synthesis of other studies that relate to your topic area. It should contain a discussion of how your research question raises or resolves issues that the available literature does not address. Try to identify *3 research areas* most relevant to your research topic.

In class: evaluating evidence exercises (pp. 191, 193, 195)

Week 7. Drafting Introduction (11/9)

Assignment: Draft introduction (13-15pp). Group A only. Please email to class by 5pm on Sunday (11/7)

Come prepared to discuss the drafts. Everyone come prepared with a one-page feedback with copies for the writer and the professor. Please include these prompts in your paper:

I think you were arguing ...

I think one thing original about your work is...

I was a little unsure about ...

One suggestion might be to ...

Peer critic: One person will be assigned the role of a peer critic. That person will do a 5-10 minute presentation reviewing the paper during our class meeting. They will state the thesis, assess presentation of the literature review, discuss intervention in existing literature, explain how the proposed research supports the thesis, and the overall strengths and weaknesses of the paper. The peer critic will give a written copy of her comments to the writer and professor. The author will then have a chance to respond to the critic. We will then open up the discussion to the entire class.

Questions to consider as a peer critic:

Can you state the author's thesis? Can it be revised for clarity?

Does each section connect back to the argument?

Are the methods employed best suited to answer the question? What are the strengths and limits of that method? Feasibility?

At what point in the paper do you have a sense of the whole?

Does the author assume the audience knows too much? Too little?

Do you have a sense of how the paper will be organized?

Could any of the key information be presented more clearly in a different format?

Are there sentences that are unnecessarily complex?

How is this an ethnic studies project?

Week 8-- Drafting Introduction (cont) (11/16)

Repeat as above with Group B

Week 9-- NO CLASS (11/23)

Revise your intro. Meet with your advisors

Week 10 -- In class presentations (11/30)

Readings: Belcher, Weeks 10 and 11

Introduction due date: Wednesday, Dec. 8, noon, in the professor's box