Anthropology 191

The “Cultures” of UCLA Undergraduate Students

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 12 to 2

Undergraduate seminar
20 students only (enforced)
Open only to anthropology major students (or with the instructor’s consent)

**Thursdays, 1 to 3:45**
**Haines Hall 314**

**Course Outline**

This seminar has two goals. One is to introduce students to qualitative research methods in anthropology. Two is to understand the everyday life of UCLA undergraduate students (of whom you are one) in several “social situations,” such as racial relationships, romance, sexuality, work and community involvement.

Each student will conduct research on UCLA campus, learn about qualitative research methods through both theory and practice, write ethnographies on either weekly or biweekly bases and present them to class.

**Requirements**

1) You must fully participate in our weekly seminars and hopefully animated discussions- this is the most important criteria (e-mail me when you are unable to attend the meeting for legitimate reasons).
2) Complete and digest our weekly reading.
3) Complete your (bi) weekly assignments and share them with the class.
4) Final take-home exam- an essay on the topic that I will announce toward the end of the quarter. For this goal, you must keep “fieldnotes” throughout the time of this quarter (I will provide you with more explanation on this in our first meeting).

**Textbooks and Course Reader**

I will place- on a weekly basis- all the required readings on the class website for anthropology 191.

**Schedule (tentative)**

Week 1 (9/29): Cancelled.
Week 2 (10/6): Introduction: “Knowing Each Other.”


Read:
1) Selected Results from the 2003 University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES 2003)
2) John Omohundro, “Careers in Anthropology.”
3) (optional) “Anthropology and Careers.”
4) B. Malinowski, Introduction to his Argonauts of the Western Pacific.

Weekly assignment 1 (to be announced in class)

Week 4 (10/20): On fieldnotes and ethnography

Read:
1) “Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research” by Robert M. Emerson (chapter 1 of Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes).
2) Excerpts from Fieldnotes, edited by Roger Sanjek.

Presentations of weekly assignment 1- let’s think of “social situations.”

Week 5 (10/27): Ways of Seeing

Read:
1) Yunxiang Yan, “Native anthropologist, Longitudinal Fieldwork, and Experience-near Ethnography.”
2) John Berger, Ways of Seeing (Chapters 1 and 3).
3) Clifford Geertz. “Notes on the Balinese Cockfight.”

Weekly assignment 2 --- will be done in classroom using the last half an hour.

Week 6 (11/3): Is there such a thing as “an objective scientist”?

Read:
1) Donna Haraway, “Situated Knowledge: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective.”
2) Roy D’Andrade, “Morals Models in Anthropology.”

Presentations of Weekly assignment 2

There is no assignment for this week.

Week 7 (11/10): College Romance
Read:
1) Keywords: “Romantic.”

**Weekly assignment 3** (to be announced in class)

Week 8 (11/17): Let’s talk about “Visual Anthropology.”

Read:
1) Statement of the Society for Visual Anthropology
2) Kevin Taylor Anderson, “Ethnographic Hypermedia.”
3) (Recommended) Karen Crinall, “My Aunt, Our Mother, Their Face.”

Video presentations in class:

Discussion of our Weekly Assignment 3

**Weekly assignment 4** (to be announced in class)

November 24th: Holiday.

Week 9 (12/1): Race

Read:

1) Keywords: “Racial.”

Presentations of Weekly Assignment 4

**Weekly assignment 5** (to be announced in class)

Week 10 (12/8): Conclusion (Potluck Party)

Presentations of the weekly assignment 5

At the end of the party, I will give you the gift, that is, the final take home exam question (to be submitted in a week time by December 15).