Anthropology 191

The “Cultures” of UCLA Undergraduate Students

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Office hours: Thursdays 2 to 4

Undergraduate seminar
20 students only (enforced)
Open only to anthropology major students (or with the instructor’s consent)
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Haines 310

Course Outline

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

Each student will conduct research on UCLA campus, learn about qualitative research methods through both theory and practice, write ethnographies on weekly bases and present them to class. Our weekly seminar is divided into two sections. The first half will discuss our common reading materials (I appoint a team of students as the discussion leaders). In the second, students present their weekly assignments and we comment on them and discuss about them.

Requirements

1) Your full participation in our weekly seminars and hopefully animated discussion.
2) Complete and digest our weekly reading (EVERYBODY HAS TO READ EVERY ARTICLE AND CHAPTER. DISCUSSION LEADERS WILL READ THEM WITH SPECIAL CARE AND COME UP WITH INTERESTING QUESTIONS TO CLASS).
3) Complete your weekly assignments (to be announced in class).
4) Suppose at the end of this quarter (or later), you will publish your ethnography on the cultures of UCLA undergraduate students. With this goal in mind, write your fieldnotes everyday (write anything that come to your mind or that you have observed or heard about the cultures of UCLA undergraduate students). (There is no need to submit your fieldnotes to me).
5) With your partner, you must take care of one entire seminar as class discussion leaders.
6) (FINAL EXAM: Optional but recommended.) Your ethnography of the “cultures” of UCLA undergraduate students. If you prefer a visual ethnography (and if you already
know the technique to do so), that is fine too. “A visual ethnography” includes a film (video) or an artistic work (such as a collage of photographs). (There is no due date for your final exam.)

**Textbooks and Course Reader**

There are two textbooks for this seminar.
I will place our COURSE READER in anthropology reading room. It is your responsibility to copy them, using the machine in the reading room.

**Schedule (tentative)**

Week 1: Business: “Knowing each other.”

Week 2: What is “ethnography”? (This is “all reading and discussion week.” I will appoint two teams of discussion leaders.)

Read:
Selected Results from the 2003 University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES 2003)
B. Malinowski, Introduction to his *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*.

Read:
Wolf, Chapter 1.

Weekly assignment 1 (to be announced in class)

Week 3: Fieldnotes: Ways of Seeing

Read:
Wolf, Chapter 3.
John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (Chapters 1 and 3).

Presentations of Weekly assignment 1
Weekly assignment 2 (to be announced in class)

Week 4: Participant Observation

Read:
Presentations of Weekly assignment 2
Weekly assignment 3 (to be announced in class)

Week 5: College Romance
Read:
Keywords: “Romantic.”
Holland & Eisenhart. Parts 3 & 4.

Presentations of Weekly assignment 3
Weekly assignment 4 (to be announced in class)

Week 6: Technology
Read:
Leslie Haddon. “Uneven Patterns of Adoption and Use of ICTs,” and “Children, Youth and ICTs.”

Presentations of Weekly Assignment 4
No weekly assignment this week.

Week 7: Race
Read:
Keywords: “Racial.”
Paul Ong, ed. Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality in the United States (excerpts).
(I will appoint two teams of discussion leaders).

Weekly assignment 5 (to be announced in class).

Week 8: Writing Ethnography
Read:
Wolf, Chapters 4
Clifford Geertz. “Notes on the Balinese Cockfight.”

Presentations of weekly assignment 5.
Weekly assignment 6 (to be announced in class).

Week 9: Is fiction ethnography?
Kamala Wisweswaran. Fictions of Feminist Ethnography (excerpts).
Wolf, Chapter 2.
Presentations of weekly assignment 6.

Week 10: Conclusion

PARTY BUT Read:
Roger Sanjek. “Fieldnotes and Others.”
Roger Sanjek. “On Ethnographic Validity.”

PRESENTATIONS of your thought on the culture of UCLA undergraduate students.