Anthropology 191

The “Cultures” of an American University: The Case of UCLA
(This is still the tentative syllabus.)

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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, 12 to 2:50
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 the members of the UCLA community (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 ON TIME 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

There is one textbook for your to purchase at ASUCLA.

I will place- on a weekly basis- all the other required readings (other than the chapters in the above mentioned textbook) on the class website for anthropology 191.
Schedule (tentative)

Week 1 (9/28): “Knowing Each Other.”


Read:
1) Selected Results from the 2003/2005 University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES 2003, 2005)
2) John Omohundro, “Careers in Anthropology.”
3) “Anthropology and Careers.”

Announcement of Weekly Assignment 1 (on “objectivity”)

Week 3 (10/12): Is there such a thing as “an objective scientist”?

Read:
1) Preface, Chapters 1 and 4, and Afterward of Nathan.
2) Excerpts from Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective.
3) B. Malinowski, on Ethnography, “Introduction” from Argonauts of the Western Pacific.

Presentations and Discussion of your Weekly Assignment 1
Announcement of Weekly Assignment 2

Week 4 (10/19): 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.
3) Chapters 2 and 3 of Nathan.

Discussion of your Weekly Assignment 2

Weekly Assignment 3 (Revise your Weekly Assignment 2)

Week 5 (10/19): 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.”
4) Chapter 5 of Nathan.
Submission of your Weekly Assignment 3

Announcement of Weekly assignment 4

Week 6 (11/2): College Romance
Read:
1) Keywords: “Romantic.”
2) Holland & Eisenhart, Excerpts from Educated in Romance.
3) Chapter 6 of Nathan.

Presentation of Weekly Assignment 4

Announcement of Weekly assignment 5

Week 7 (11/9): Race
Read:
1) Paul Ong, ed. Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality in the United States (excerpts).
2) Kyeyoung, Park, The Korean American Dread (excerpts).
3) Howard Winant, “Racism Today.”
4) Michael Omi, “Racial Identity and the State.”

Presentation of Weekly Assignment 5

Announcement of Weekly Assignment 6

Week 8 (11/16): University in the Age of Hypermedia
Read:
1) Leslie Haddon. Excerpts from Information and Communication: Technologies in Everyday Life.
2) Kevin Taylor Anderson, “Ethnographic Hypermedia.”
3) “Roommates, the Online Version” (New York Times)

Video presentations in class:

Presentation of Weekly Assignment 6

Announcement of the question for your take-home final essay

November 23rd: Holiday.

Week 9 (12/1): Student presentations.

Read:
1) Chapter 7 of Nathan.

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