

University of California
Santa Barbara
w - 2007

SOC 108ST
GLOBAL ETHNOGRAPHY
Phelps 1425 W. 5 - 7:50PM

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Office hours: Monday 2:30PM-4:30PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Let's define globalization as the ongoing expansion and logical consequences of the 19th and 20th century capitalist market revolution, during which epoch the emergent philosophies and sciences of early modern European and Anglo-American origin were applied to social production in every sector, including the state, agriculture and manufacturing. In this class students encounter the world globalization is producing and learn to theorize and study it through a series of thought provoking ethnographic essays and films. The films put us into the presence of peoples and places impacted by globalization, helping us learn how to study them first hand using ethnographic methods. The essays are exemplary attempts to study such peoples and places and to write ethnographically about the local impacts of *global forces*, as well reveal the power of *local* peoples and places to understand and resist the destructive effects of globalization. Each student will produce a professional research proposal for their own global ethnography.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- I. **ATTENDANCE** and participation in both lecture and discussion section are mandatory. Your thoughtful engagement with the materials, your classmates, and the class content will be necessary to earn an A in this class. 10 points per session = 100 points.
- II. Students will read, analyze, and submit three two-page, single-spaced **BRIEFS** on the articles, as specified week by week below. Questions to be addressed in the briefs will be distributed in class. The first brief will be on introductory articles that theorize the method. Subsequent briefs will engage both theoretical articles and recent ethnographic studies. A mandatory format for the briefs is indicated at the end of this syllabus (see *sample brief*). The first two briefs are worth 30 points, the third is worth 40 points = 100 points total. Due dates are specified below. No late briefs accepted.
- III. Each student will produce a **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** for a global ethnography that discusses 1) your proposed field study site(s); 2) your central research question(s); 3) your chosen methods; 4) at least five preliminary interview questions; 5) the conceptual tools you will need and recording technologies you will utilize; 6) the people with whom you plan to talk; 7) how you expect to gain access to them and entrance to your ethnographic site; 8) the formal writing/ethnographic story you plan to produce; 9) a bibliography of at least five theoretical and five historical sources, and 10) a completed human subjects review form. This document will be between eight and ten pages in length, double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, not including end notes, bibliography, and relevant appendices. The final project is worth 100 points.

Your **proposal** will include the following section headings and relevant discussions:

- a) *Statement of the problem* introducing the ethnographic site(s) of your choice; this section identifies the place(s) you will study and poses the research problems and question(s);
- b) *Research hypotheses* based on a review of theoretical sources, previous academic and popular literature on the subject, and an historical assessment of the site's relevant social processes, subjects, and cultures to be investigated;
- c) *Background* historical analysis of the research problem and site; description of the ethnographic site based on historical study; exploratory fieldwork and/or initial contact with or observation of possible interviewees or research subjects; visual documentation of the site(s); and description and/or presentation of relevant archival materials.
- d) *Methods* of study to be used. This is where you propose to actually do the ethnography—a description the actions you will take, your reasons for taking them, and your goals as an ethnographer, including a description of the time you will require and the funds necessary to carry the project to completion.
- e) Discussion of possible findings and the *Significance of Research*.
- f) *Bibliography*.
- g) *Human Subjects Review* form.

IV. Each student will also maintain a **FILM JOURNAL** of analytic reflections on all films and media shown or distributed in class. Your journal is due on **Wednesday March 14, 2006**. As films will be presented each week there will be one entry in the journal for every class meeting. It will discuss the films, connect them to the readings, relate them to the ethnographic methods we discuss, and answer study questions presented in class. 100 points.

[Week by week trajectory]

Week #1. January 10.

SCREENING: *Tree-Sit: The Art of Resistance*. James Ficklin and the Headwaters Action Video Collective. 2001. Earthfilms.org. [first part].

[Key CONCEPTS: Ethnography]

Week #2. January 17.

READING:

1. Brewer, John D. 2000. "What is Ethnography?" *Ethnography*. Buckingham: Open University Press. [16 pages]
2. Willis, Paul and Trondman, Mats. 2000. "Manifesto for *Ethnography*." *Ethnography* 1, 1:5-16. [9 pages]
3. Burawoy, Michael. 2000. "Introduction: Reaching for the Global." *Global Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [35 pages]
4. Burawoy, Michael. 2001. "Manufacturing the Global." *Ethnography* 2, 2:147-159. [13 pages]

SCREENING: *Tree-Sit: The Art of Resistance*. James Ficklin and the Headwaters Action Video Collective. 2001. Earthfilms.org. [second part]

[Key CONCEPTS: History; Local and Global; The extended case study method; global forces, connections, and imaginations; Capitalism]

Week #3. January 24.

BRIEF #1 DUE [readings 1 - 8]

READING:

5. Gille, Zsuzsa and Ó Riain, Seán. 2002. "Global Ethnography." *Annual Review Sociology* 28, 271-95. [24 pages]
6. Davis, Mike. 2004. "Planet of Slums." *New Left Review* 26, 5-34. [29 pages]
7. Molyneux, Maxine. 2001. "Ethnography and global processes." *Ethnography* 2, 2:274-282. [10 pages]
8. Thayer, Millie. 2002. "Transnational feminism Reading Joan Scott in the Brazilian sertão." *Ethnography* 2, 2:243-271. [28 pages]

Recommended reading. On reserve. United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN Habitat). 2003. *The challenge of slums*. London; Sterling, VA: Earthscan Publications. UCSB Main Library, reference, non-circulating, call # HV4028 .C48

SCREENING: *Life and Debt*. Stephanie Black.

Week #4. January 31.

READING:

9. Rabelo, Miriam and Souza, Iara. 2003. "Temporality and experience." *Ethnography* 4, 3:333-361. [28 pages]
10. Goldman, Michael. 2001. "The birth of a discipline producing authoritative green knowledge, World Bank-style." *Ethnography* 2, 2:191-217. [27 pages]
11. Salzinger, Leslie. 2000. "Manufacturing Sexual Subjects: 'Harassment', desire and discipline on a Maquiladora shopfloor." *Ethnography* 1, 1: 67-92. [25 pages]

SCREENING: *Global Assembly Line* [60 minutes]

Week #5. February 7.

BRIEF #2 DUE. [reading 9 - 15]

READING:

13. HUMAN SUBJECTS COMMITTEE Brochure, Belmont Report, & Review Forms #1.
14. Brewer, John D. 2000. "The Research Process in Ethnography." *Ethnography*.
15. Behar, Ruth. 2003. "Ethnography and the book that was lost." *Ethnography* 4, 1:15-39. [24 pages]

SCREENING: *WallMart: Is it Good For America?* [60 Minutes]

Week #6. February 14.

READING:

16. Wacquant, Loïc. 2002. "The curious eclipse of prison ethnography in the age of mass incarceration." *Ethnography* 3, 4:371-397. [26 pages]
17. Rhodes, Lorna A. 2002. "Psychopathy and the face of control in supermax." *Ethnography* 3, 4:442-466. [24 pages]
18. Comfort, Megan. 2002. "'Papa's house': the prison as domestic and social satellite." *Ethnography* 3, 4:467-499. [30 pages]

SCREENING: *The Farm: Angola USA* (1998, 88 minutes). Directed by Liz Garbus and Rideau.

Week #7. February 21.

READING:

19. Davies, Charlotte Aull. 1999. "Reflexivity and Ethnographic Research." *Reflexive Ethnography: A Guide to Researching Selves and Others*. New York: Routledge. [25 pages]
20. Marcus, George. 1998. "On Ideologies of Reflexivity in Contemporary Efforts to Remake the Human Sciences (1994)." *Ethnography through thick and thin*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [19 pages]

SCREENING and exercise in taking field-notes. *Hurry Tomorrow*. Ted Cohen.

Week #8. February 28.

BRIEF # 3 DUE. [readings 16 - 22]

READING:

21. Paula Saukko. 2003. "New Ethnography and Understanding the Other." London: Sage. [20 pages]
22. Lee, Ching Kwan. 2000. "The 'revenge of history': Collective memories and labor protests in northeastern China." *Ethnography* 1, 2:217–237. [20 pages]

Screening and discussion:
Redwood Timber War films; clips.

Week #9. March 7.

READING.

22. Paula Saukko. 2003. "Analysis of 'Reality' and Space." London: Sage. [19 pages]

Screening and discussion:
The Fourth World War.

Week #10. March 14.

FILM JOURNALS DUE

Workshop: Finishing the Proposal.

Week #11. — Final Research Proposal Due —