

Comprehensive Examination and Research Preparation in Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies 291

Spring 2020

Thursday 1:00 – 4:00 PM, on Zoom

Office Hours: Mon 1:00-3:00, Tues- Thurs 10:00-noon, & by appt.

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This syllabus may change without notice. Last update: 3/28/2020

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course provides a working space for students preparing for the 2nd year Comprehensive Examination in Ethnic Studies. The seminar will also provide a venue for each student to assemble their 2nd year portfolio, consisting of: a) response and synthesis papers produced in ETHN 200A, 200B, and 200C; b) papers produced in ETIM courses; c) a copy of research paper written in first two years of course work. It facilitates organized group study and workshops for review and preparation for the comprehensive exam and beyond to plan and develop for the Qualifying Examination.

Comprehensive Examination:

- one question will address debates, issues, theories, and genealogies in the field of Ethnic Studies (drawing on first year portfolio);
- one question will center on the use of interdisciplinary methods and frames to address Ethnic Studies research questions (drawing on methodology portfolio and research paper).
- The Comprehensive Examination is written during 10th Week in the form of papers of approximately 10 pages in response to each of the 2 questions, written over 4 days: 2 days per question with a 1-day break in between.

Accommodations

Please discuss with me as soon as possible any disabilities or medical conditions that may affect your participation in any aspect of the course, and if you require specific accommodations. I will make all reasonable efforts to assist students in completing and benefitting from the course.

Course Schedule

PART I – Comprehensive Exam Portfolio

Week 1 (April 2): Organizing the Portfolio

- Refer to the bottom of page 7 in the [Ethnic Studies Graduate Student Handbook](#) for the required components of your Ethnic Studies portfolio.
- Please upload the following to your folder in ETHN 291 Canvas:
 - a) response and synthesis papers produced in ETHN 200A, 200B, and 200C;
 - b) papers produced in ETIM courses;
 - c) a research paper written in first two years of course work.

If possible, complete your uploading by **Monday** morning.

Assignment for Week 2: Create lists that begin to organize your portfolio materials into useful conceptual categories | themes that take shape across courses. Lists contain a short description of the category | theme and related readings.

- Categories | themes will likely be dynamic and overlapping and should pay attention to the “debates, issues, theories, and genealogies,” and “interdisciplinary methods” mentioned in the Graduate Handbook.
- We will develop further ways of thinking about conceptual categories | themes during our Week 1 meeting.

Week 2 (April 9): Identifying Themes and Areas of Emphasis

Class session: Discuss completed lists of conceptual categories | themes. Develop plan of work and deliverables for Weeks 7, 8, and 9.

Assignment for Week 3:

- Refer to the pages 10-11 in the [Ethnic Studies Graduate Student Handbook](#) for the The Qualifying Reading List and Written Components
- Write a description of the general areas of interest from which your dissertation project may emerge. Try to move through the steps below in order.
 - An area of interest is broader than a research question (or questions), but not as broad as a field (or fields) of specialization.
 - List the categories of existing scholarship that inform your area of interest and think about connections across subjects, topics, and areas of research that you wish to bring together.
 - Select a small group of texts foundational to your general areas of interest.

If possible, complete your uploading by **Wednesday** morning to allow others to view your work.

PART II – Pre-Dissertation Preparation Workshops

Week 3 (April 16): Qualifying Reading Lists Workshop I

Class session: Genealogies | theory tree workshop to plan for the General Reading list.

Assignment for Week 4: Create a first-pass draft of your General Reading List.

Week 4 (April 23): Qualifying Reading Lists Workshop II

Class session: Discuss drafts of General Reading List. Workshop to plan for the Specialty Reading list.

Assignment for Week 5: Create a first-pass draft of your Specialty Reading List.

Week 5 (April 30): Qualifying Reading Lists Workshop III

Class session: Discuss drafts of Specialty Reading List. Workshop to plan for the Teaching Reading list.

Assignment for Week 6:

- Create a first-pass draft of your Teaching Reading List;
- Refer to the pages 9-10 in the [Ethnic Studies Graduate Student Handbook](#) for the composition of an Ethnic Studies Dissertation Committee;

Week 6 (May 7): Dissertation Committee Workshop

Class session: Discuss drafts of Specialty Reading List. Workshop to plan for composing Dissertation Committee.

Assignment: Prepare first set from Week 2: plan of work and deliverables for Week 7.

PART III – Comprehensive Exam Preparation

Week 7 (May 14): Preparation Session I

Class session: Presentations and discussion of first set of materials.

Assignment: Prepare second set from Week 2: plan of work and deliverables for Week 8.

Week 8 (May 21): Preparation Session II

Class session: Presentations and discussion of second set of materials.

Assignment: Prepare third set from Week 2: plan of work and deliverables for Week 9.

Week 9 (May 28): Preparation Session III

Class session: Presentations and discussion of third set of materials.

Week 10: Comprehensive exams

- Question 1: Monday June 1 – Tuesday June 2
- Question 2: Thursday, June 4 – Friday June 5

