

ETHNIC STUDIES 301: ETHNIC IDENTITY

Spring, 1973

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Check with your lab leader

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethnic Identity can loosely be defined as that part of an individual's self-concept that accounts for their particular racial and cultural backgrounds. However, we must keep in mind that the individual's self-concept is largely a function of the greater social organism of which the individual is a part.

In this context (for ES 301 at least), it is not sufficient to describe ethnic identity solely on the personal level or view the identity crisis as a personal phenomenon. Therefore, the concept of ethnic identity will be examined in terms of the individual as a member of an ethnic group and the larger society. Basically, we will be seeking to achieve an understanding of the dynamics of ethnic interaction, particularly as they relate to the conditions of local peoples in Hawaii. We hope that by going through this process together, we will arrive at a better understanding of our own ethnic identities.

REQUIRED READING

For the first part of the course, you will be given a series of three separate reading packets: 1) "Identity: Society and the Individual"; 2) "Some Factors that Shape Identity"; 3) "The Roots and Nature of Racism". You will be expected to read and incorporate some of the ideas from your reading of these packets in a short written assignment that will be due about the second or third week in March.

For the second part of the course, you will be expected to select and read at least one book dealing with ethnic consciousness (this should be a book that you have NOT read previously). We suggest that you select from the following list:

George Jackson, SOLEDAD BROTHER
Dick Gregory, NIGGER
PALANTE
BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE
ROOTS: AN ASIAN-AMERICAN READER
Koji Ariyoshi, "The Thoughts Upon Which I Stand"
(see lab leader to obtain)
Bethune, SCAPLE AND THE SWORD
MAKING OF AN UN-AMERICAN

You may also select a book not on this list, but first check it out with your lab leader. You will be expected to relate your reactions to your reading to a self-analytical sketch that will be due sometime during the first two weeks in April.

Finally, all of you will be involved through your labs in some kind of group (or possibly individual) project that will require other reading and research.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES (subject to change)

A. Introduction to Ethnic Identity

1. Ethnic Studies Struggle/Course and Staff Introduction (Jan. 23)
2. Personal Reflections on Identity (Jan. 30)
Guest lecturer: Mitsuo Aoki

B. Some Factors that Shape Identity

3. Social Class and Family Influence (Feb. 6)
Film plus lecture
4. Education, Formal and Informal (Feb. 13)
5. Education (con't) (Feb. 20)
Film: "high School"

C. The Roots and Nature of Racism

6. Racism and Cultural Genocide (Feb. 27)
Guest Speaker: Gene Parker
7. Racism: From Vietnam to Hawaii (March 6)
8. The Role of Racial Stereotypes (March 13)
Guest speakers: Panel of local speakers

D. Ethnicity

9. Alienation from Ethnicity (March 20)
10. Effects of Alienation (March 27)
Play: "Crack In The Pot" - group discussion with cast later
11. Self-Affirmation and Group Unity (April 3)
Film and/or guest speaker

E. Local Culture and Identity

12. What Is/Was/Will be local culture? (April 10)
Film and/or guest speaker
13. The Role of Pidgin English (April 17)
Guest speaker
14. Open (possibly lecture by a lab section) (April 24)
15. Open (possibly lecture by a lab section) (May 1)
16. Evaluation/Summary (May 5)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Two (2) short written assignments (5 - 7 pp).
 - a. An "analytical" paper in which you will describe your own understanding of how the information presented in lecture units A,B,C

the reading packets (I, II, III), and discussion are related and help you to conceive somekind of theoretical framework within which to understand your own ethnic identity. This will be due on March 15.

- b. An autobiographical sketch, including your reactions to the lectures and reading on ethnicity. This will be due on April 5.
2. A group project. Some projects involving community involvement will be described at the lab organization meeting during the first week of class (Jan. 25) and you may want to become involved in these. There is also the option of selecting a lab whose assigned task will be to select, research, and present a lecture on some aspect of local culture and identity. In the case of community involvement projects, we hope that you will produce some kind of product that will be of benefit and use to the community you have been working with.

There is also the option of doing some kind of small group or individual project, though we hope that most people will choose to do a regular group project.

3. Lecture/Lab attendance and participation. Since we will be having only one 1½ hour lecture a week (that should be both interesting and informative), it is important that you attend class regularly. Lab attendance is important not only for the opportunity to discuss ideas and feelings with other people, but also because evaluation for grading will be done primarily by your lab leader.

GRADING

You will be graded primarily on the basis of your written assignments, participation in a group or individual project (specifics on how this will be evaluated will be up to each group/lab leader to work out), and class attendance and participation.

You are strongly encouraged to take this course for CREDIT/NO CREDIT as its just makes things so much nicer all around

Please be sure to let someone on the staff know if you decide to withdraw from the course or find yourself in some situation that makes it difficult for you to attend lecture or lab, or meet any of the other requirements. We consider ourselves to be pretty open and flexible people - so no hold back.