

C 156: Cross-Cultural Research on Urban Gangs

Prof. Vigil: SE II 2355
Vigil@uci.edu; SUMMER II 2015
OF HRS: 12-1AM Or by appoint.

W: 9-11:50AM
Rm: SSL 145

Outline

Gang patterns are embedded within the fabric of a society. Since large-scale immigration at the turn of the 20th Century, many of the children of immigrants have formed street gangs as a response to urban adaptation. This course will examine why this transpired and how gangs emerged as a new type of youth subculture. Gangs and gang behavior now dominate street life in many American (and other nations') cities and various historical and structural interpretations have aided our understanding of this urban problem.

This course will take an urban policy approach and examine the background and contemporary traditions of gangs in several ethnic groups, primarily African Americans, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, Salvadorans and others. Similarities and differences will be noted in a cross-cultural exploration of the varied facets of gang life, and especially the major social control institutions--e.g., family, schools, peers, law enforcement, religion, and so on--which affects their lives.

Texts

1. Howell, J.: Gangs in America's Communities.
2. Rios, V.: Punished.
2. Vigil, J.D.: The Projects.
3. Vigil, J.D.: A Rainbow of Gangs

Course Evaluation

Read other books and articles on any issue (i.e., as suggested by multiple marginality model) that reflects the gang experience. This will help prepare you for your paper. Also of importance are the social control issues or combination thereof (i.e., families, schooling, police) of your choice; educational problems and issues among at-risk or gang affiliated youth is especially recommended. If you need a "kickstart," browse through references in books above and conduct library searches once you identify a topic that interests you. Check with instructor or TA to clear topic, making sure that the proposed paper addresses some facet of gangs.

- 1)Midterm: 3rd week, 8-20, 35%.
- 2)Research Paper: (5-7 pp., due last week, 9-3 on Thursday(30%).
- 3)Final: TBA, Final on9-8(35%).
- 4)Attendance (is an issue when you are on the cusp of a grade).

Week	Date	Lecture Topics and Readings
1A	8-4	Introduction; Projects and papers. Readings: Vigil: Forewords/Prefaces; Howell Ch 3.
1B	8-6	Urban Gangs in Historical Perspective Readings: Vigil (P) Ch. 3; Howell Ch 1. Media: Dead End.
2A	8-11	Theoretical Orientation and Street Research. Readings: Howell Ch 2, 4; Vigil (P), Ch. 1-2. Media: Angels with Dirty Faces.
2B	8-13	Multiple Marginality and Cross-Cultural Research; outline of paper due. Readings: Howell Ch 5; Vigil (RG): Ch. 1-2. Media: Blackboard Jungle
3A	8-18	Midterm Exam; media event or speaker.
3B	8-20	Gender Issues in Gangs. Readings: Howell Ch 6; Vigil (P) Ch. 7. Media: La Vida Loca
4A	8-25	A Rainbow of Gangs: Power Point; Asian Americans. Readings: Rios Ch 1-4; Vigil(RG): Ch. 7-8. Media: .
4B	8-27	African Americans and Salvadoran Americans. Readings: Howell Ch 8; Rios Ch 5-7; Vigil (RG): Ch. 5-6, 9-10; Research Topic Progress Reports due. Media: Boyz n Hood
5A	9-1	Chicanos in the Projects: Power Point. Readings: Vigil (P) Ch. 4-6, 8-10; Vigil (RG): Ch. 3-4; or film, Gangs: A Secret History.
5B	9-3	Policies and Applied Strategies
	9-8	Final: TBA