

CHC/LAT 217 (SAME AS CRM/LAW C222): Street Ethnography Fall, 2003

Fall 2003

Prof. Vigil

Office: SE II: 2355

Office hrs: T 12-1PM; W 11-12PM, and by appointment

Email: Vigil@UCI.edu

T: 2-5PM

Rm: SE II:2372

Phone: 4-6113

Course Description: The course will focus on urban street populations, especially gangs, and outline some of the major conceptual and theoretical issues related to this topic and the processes of street socialization. Concurrently, it will survey the varied ethnographic methods utilized by anthropologists and other social scientists. Though other methods of inquiry will be discussed, such as mapping, ethnohistory, survey questionnaires, and, other quantitative techniques, the primary emphasis will be on participation observation and intensive interviewing. Students will be guided in taking an applied approach in the ethnographic work and class project, as they explore the multiple factors affecting urban youth. In learning the methods, documenting the social issues, and formulating policy actions, students will conduct their own investigations on some aspect of the street population they select.

Books: Bohannon, P. & van der Elst, D.: **Asking and Listening.**
Liebow, E.: **Tally's Corner.**
Lofland & Lofland: **Analyzing Social Settings.**
Vigil: **A Rainbow of Gangs**

Course Assignment: In consultation with instructor, student projects and exercises are to be selected in the early part of the quarter and ethnographic methods and styles should be an integral part of this work; length and depth of project papers to be worked out. Class discussions on lectures and readings as well as reactions and feedback to other student projects are strongly encouraged.

Weekly Schedule:

9-30: Intro to course; assignments; experiential education; communities and ethnography; student projects.

Readings: Bohannon and van der Elst, *Asking and Listening*; Liebow, *Tally's Corner*.

10-7: Urban studies; following peasants/immigrants into cities; identify issue or problem; assess field situation; connection between theory and method.

Readings: Bohannon and van der Elst, Asking and Listening (all); Elliot Liebow, Tally's Corner (all); Lofland and Lofland, Analyzing Social Settings (throughout quarter, selectively read those chapters and sections that inform and sharpen your own fieldwork; specific chapters will be assigned and discussed when appropriate).

10-14: Gaining trust, establishing rapport; Ethics and protection of human subjects.

Readings: Analyzing Social Settings (Chapters 3 and 4).

10-21: Multiple Marginality and other models for research; fieldwork in marginalized populations.

Readings: Refer back to Bohannon/van der Elst, Liebow, and begin Vigil.

10-28: Urban cross-cultural research; Applied and action research.

Readings: Analyzing Social Settings (Chapters 6, 7, 8); finish Vigil.

11-4: Student project outlines and discussion.

11-11: Student fieldwork and project development.

11-18: Student fieldwork and project development.

11-25: Presentation of student projects; fieldwork problems.

12-2: Presentation of student projects; future research plans; conclude course.