RACE AND ORAL HISTORY
ETHN 120D/HIUS 120D – Spring 2020

TTh 2:00-3:20pm; Sections T 3:30-4:20pm

PROFESSORS
Yen Le Espiritu (instructor) - yespiritu@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Th. 2:00 – 3:20 via zoom
Simeon Man - siman@ucsd.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Adriana Echeverria -- aechever@ucsd.edu
Youngoh Jung – yoj013@ucsd.edu

LIBRARIANS
Alanna Aiko Moore - aamoore@ucsd.edu
Cristela Garcia-Spitz -- cgarciaspitz@ucsd.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
This course examines the history of racial and ethnic communities in San Diego (and beyond San Diego during the COVID-19 pandemic) through active and sustained engagement with community-based organizations. We will study the ways that histories of global capitalism, colonialism, displacement, and war have disproportionately impacted particular communities of color, resulting in their vulnerabilities to state violence and premature death. These vulnerabilities have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as immigrant and refugee communities already experiencing economic precarity find themselves struggling to access emergency medical provisions, childcare, and other relief. This course allows students to engage in grassroots community-building efforts in response to the current crisis. Students will supplement their text-based knowledge by conducting community-based research, including oral history. By the end of the course, students will have developed core public and digital humanities skills, built relationships with a community partner, and contributed to the collection and preservation of oral histories for future scholarship on racial and ethnic communities and on the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & PROJECTS
Please see the "Community Partners & Projects" document on Canvas for description of projects.

1) Allies to End Detention
2) United Women of East Africa
3) Refugee Health Unit | UCSD Center for Community Health
4) Oakland Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce
5) American Friends Service Committee -- US- Mexico Border Program
6) Refugee Teaching Institute, Critical Refugee Studies Collective

DISCUSSION SECTION MEETINGS

Participation in discussion section is a requirement for this course. The section meetings will be scheduled and listed on Canvas zoom page.

Section 1: TA- Youngoh
        Community Organizations- United Women of East Africa; Oakland Vietnamese
                              Chamber of Commerce; Refugee Teaching Institute
Section 2: TA- Adriana
        Community Organizations- Allies to End Detention; Refugee Health Unit;
                              American Friends Service Committee.

PLEASE NOTE: On week 1, the first section will take place during the scheduled class time on 4/2 from 2-3:30. Section 1 will meet on the listed meeting on canvas that day (Meeting ID 209-759-383) and Section 2 will meet at the same time in a separate meeting.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grading: The UCSD Academic Senate has approved the use of P/NP for all courses in Spring Quarter only, and Ethnic Studies will allow majors and minors to take required courses P/NP as well without counting towards the normal limits. Students will have to initiate the P/NP and will have up until week 10 to do so. For details and information see here: http://senate.ucsd.edu/current-affairs/news-announcements/covid-19-updates-academic-senate-guidance-for-changes-in-campus-operating-status/

There are two main assignments for this course: <u>Oral History</u> and <u>Group Project</u>.

<u>Oral History</u> (45%)
In collaboration with your community partner, you will identify a person affiliated with the organization to conduct an oral history. The components of this assignment are:
        1) Interview proposal and questions (Due: Thursday April 23; Week 4)
        2) Complete one oral history (Due: Thursday May 14; Week 7)
        3) Complete transcription of oral history (Due: Thursday May 28; Week 9)
        4) Write a short (400-500 word) description of your interviewee and reflection of the interview process (Due: Tuesday June 9; Finals week)

<u>Group Project</u> (45%)
Groups will comprise 3-5 students working with the same community partner on the assigned projects.
        1) Each group will showcase/present their project virtually during Week 10.
        2) Each group will produce a reflection (1,000-1,400 word) of the project. **Your grade will be determined in consultation with your community partner.**

<u>Class Engagement</u> (10%)
Completing short assignments and participating in discussion boards

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1—March 31 & April 2

March 31: Course Introduction & Community Partners Panel
Panelists:
1) Ma Vang, Refugee Teaching Institute, Critical Refugee Studies Collective
2) Jennifer Kim Anh Tran, Executive Director of the Oakland Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce.
3) Destina Valladares, Allies to End Detention
4) Pedro Rios, American Friends Service Committee San Diego
5) Amina Sheik Mohamed; Reem Zubaidi; and Aasma Deiranieh, Refugee Health Unit
6) Faiza Warsame, United Women of East Africa

April 2: First Section Meetings
     *Community Partner and Working Groups will be assigned in sections.
     Assignment: This assignment asks you to consider how oral history has been incorporated into creative projects such as **music and spoken word**. Please find 1-2 songs and/or spoken word pieces that make use of oral histories in their pieces. You will post these pieces on Canvas Discussion Board and provide a brief explanation (4-5 sentences) of the role of oral histories in these pieces.

Week 2—April 7 & 9

April 7: Oral History Best Practices
     Workshop led by librarians Alanna Moore & Cristela Garcia-Spitz

April 9: Remote Learning
     Assignment: Oral History Exercise (details forthcoming on Canvas)

Week 3—April 14 & 16

April 14: Hearths and Harvests: Conducting Oral History in Palestine
     Guest speaker: Lila Adib Sharif

April 16: Remote Learning
      Assignment: Review digital exhibit: After-lives of the Vietnam War: the Art of Southeast Asian Refugees

Week 4—April 21 & 23

April 21: **Southeast Asian Americans Through the Lens of Community Archives, Oral History, and Digital Exhibitions**

Guest speaker: [Thuy Vo Dang](#)

April 23: Remote Learning
      Assignment: Oral History Proposal/Questions Due

Week 5—April 28 & 30

April 28: COVID-19: An Ethnic Studies Lens
- **In-class Pair Interviews** on your COVID-19 experiences
- Write a brief assessment (1 paragraph) of yourself as the interviewer; **and** a peer review of your partner's interview with you.

April 30: Remote Learning
      Assignment: Schedule and complete pre-interview; schedule oral history interview; complete revised interview questions

Week 6—May 5 & 7

May 5: Transcription and Archiving Workshop
      Guest speakers: Alanna Moore, Librarian

May 7: **Remote Learning**
      Assignment: Work on group project

Week 7—May 12 & 14
May 12: Conducting Oral History with Central American Asylum Seekers at the U.S./Mexico Border
      Guest Speaker: Mellissa Linton, Ethnic Studies PhD Candidate

May 14: Remote Learning
      Assignment: Work on group project
      Please note that your oral history should be completed by this date.

Week 8--May 19 & 21
May 19: Work on **Oral History Transcription** in class
May 21: Remote Learning
      Assignment: Work on transcription; work on group project

Week 9--May 26 & 28
May 26: No Class; work on group project presentations
May 28: Remote Learning
      Assignment: Work on group presentations
      Due: Submit completed transcription of oral history.
          Post audio file of oral history on Canvas Media Gallery.

Week 10--June 2 & 4

June 2: Group Project Presentations
- United Women of East Africa
- Oakland Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce
- Refugee Teaching Institute

June 4: Group Project Presentations
- Allies to End Detention
- Refugee Health Unit
- American Friends Service Committee.

Finals: Tuesday June 9

Due: Each student submits a 400-500 word description of interview for archiving purposes

Due: Each group submits a group reflection (1,000-1,400 word) of the community project.

.