This course provides a critical consideration of classic and contemporary literature in the urban ethnographic tradition, one of the oldest and most renown subfields in sociology. Race and class-based social inequality are central themes in this tradition. Hence, the literature in this course will focus on these issues. More specifically, this course will involve an exploration of how social actors in various race and class categories react and respond to -- and, thus, ultimately help create -- different dimensions of the urban experience. The literature for this course includes classic Chicago School-style ethnographies, post-World War II era “realist” ethnographies, and contemporary works that reflect diverse theoretical and methodological orientations. Each work will be explored in terms of the three points of emphasis included in the course subtitle:

1) theoretical, which concerns the specific claims made in each work about culture and social organization,

2) methodological, which includes how different research tools (e.g., participant-observation, interviewing), research designs (e.g., the community study, streetcorner/public space study, small group study), and data-presentation techniques (e.g., depiction of whole characters, use of select quotes and fieldnotes) were employed in these works, and

3) standpoint, which refers to the narrative style employed in these works (i.e., whether and how researchers situate their own voices and persons in their works).

Finally, attention will be given to where and how each work fits into the intellectual history of ethnographic research and the social and cultural dynamics in American urban life at the time of its publication. The themes and perspectives will be considered through a series of short critical reaction papers. A final paper, a review essay on a book of your choosing, will incorporate all of the points of emphasis.

Course Assignments:
Four short papers (4-5 pages) 15% each
Final Paper (10-12 pages) 30%
*Class participation 10%

*Includes preparing and leading a class discussion on one of the readings

Course Materials:

(Available at Shaman Drum Bookstore and on reserve at the Shapiro and CAAS Libraries)

Elijah Anderson Streetwise
Philippe Bourgois In Search of Respect
St. Claire Drake and Horace Cayton Black Metropolis
W.E.B. DuBois The Philadelphia Negro
Steven Gregory Black Corona
John Hartigan, Jr. Racial Situations
Eliot Liebow Tally’s Corner
Jay MacLeod Ain’t No Making It
Mary Pattillo-McCoy Black Picket Fences
William Foote Whyte Streetcorner Society

Coursepack available at Excel on S. University

COURSE OUTLINE

Introducing Urban Ethnography: Situating Theory, Method, and Standpoint

January 10: General introduction to course design and objectives.

Reading due: None for this period

January 17: The Craft of Ethnography: Issues in Production and Analysis

Reading due:”Ethnography and Ethnographic Representation” (coursepack)
"Writing: A Method of Inquiry" (coursepack)
"Ethnographies as Texts" (coursepack)
"Personal Writing in Social Research" (coursepack)
"Urban Ethnography: Situational and Normative Accounts" (coursepack)

The Emergence of the Urban Ethnographic Tradition
January 24: Initiating an Approach to Urban Ethnography


January 31: The Chicago School and the Community Study

Reading due: St. Claire Drake and Horace Cayton Black Metropolis chapters 6, 8-10, 14, 18, 19, 21-23. (recommended) Black Metropolis chapters 1-5, 7, 11-13, 15, 16.

The Legitimation of the Urban Ethnographic Style

February 7: The Formalization of Ethnographic Analysis in American Sociology

Reading due: William Foote Whyte Street Corner Society chapters 1-4, Conclusion, Appendix A
Paper I Due

February 14: Culture and Social Organization in 1960s Urban Ethnography

Reading due: "Research in the Black Ghetto: A Review of the Sixties" (coursepack) "Culture and Class in the Study of Poverty..." (coursepack) "The Culture of Poverty" (coursepack) "Identity and Culture in Negro Low-Income Families" (coursepack)

February 21: Culture and Social Organization in 1960s Urban Ethnography (continued)

Reading due: Eliot Liebow Tally's Corner

Contemporary Approaches to Urban Ethnography

March 7: Race, Class, History and Culture

Reading due: Jay MacLeod Ain't No Making It Part I and Appendix (recommended) Ain't No Making It Part II
Paper II Due

March 14: Race, Class, History, and Culture (continued)
Reading due: John Hartigan, Jr. *Racial Situations*

March 21: Race, Class, and Space

Reading due: Elijah Anderson *Streetwise*

March 28: Race, Class, and Space (continued)

Reading due: Steven Gregory *Black Corona* chapters 1-6, 9
Paper III Due

April 4: Race, Class, Space, and Culture

Reading due: Philippe Bourgois *In Search of Respect* chapters 1-4, 6, 7, 9
"Three Pernicious Premises in the Study of the American Ghetto"
(coursepack)

April 11: Race, Class, Space, and Culture (continued) and Overview of the Course

Reading due: Mary Pattillo-McCoy *Black Picket Fences*
"Working the Hyphens: Reinventing Self and Other..." (coursepack)
Paper IV Due

**FINAL PAPER DUE:**

**MONDAY APRIL 22, 2002**
5:00 P.M.
SOCIOLOGY MAILBOX
LSA BUILDING ROOM 3009