

PITZER COLLEGE IN ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA
Summer, 2007

**CRITICAL COMMUNITY STUDIES:
ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES
Ont. 101**

Instructor: Joe Parker

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E-reserves Code: parker101 (must be lower case; also try jparker101)

Meetings: Summer Session I: Tues, Thurs., 1-4 pm, Avery 226

Course Description:

The Critical Community Studies Course provides a multidisciplinary theoretical and historical framework for Pitzer's Community Learning and Research Program in Ontario, California. Students in the program are asked to grapple with issues that impact and shape communities in Southern California through course readings and discussions, experiential learning, and reflective activities. We ask students to explore the agents and forces that define the nature of community through multiple differences locally and globally, and to consider the role that students may play in moving society towards greater justice. The Critical Community Studies Course utilizes Southern California as a case study that highlights global trends that affect communities in the region.

Textbooks: (All textbooks and packet readings are available at Honnold library)

Sawhney, Deepak. Unmasking LA: Third Worlds and the City. New York:

Palgrave, 2002.

Urrea, Luis Albert. By The Lake of Sleeping Children: The Secret Life of the

Mexican Border. New York: Anchor Books, 1996.

Yu, Eui-Young and Edward T. Chang, Multiethnic Coalition Building In Los Angeles,

California State Univ., LA: Institute for Asian American and Pacific American Studies, 1995.

Xeroxed Course Reader—available at King's Copies (865 W. Foothill by Claremont Camera, 625-2002); all readings from course reader are also available at Honnold Library reserve desk; some readings are available on internet at Honnold Library website—see electronic reserve (ERes) readings (course code is parker101 (lower case letters only)).

Note: Students with learning or physical disabilities will be given reasonable accommodations. If you need to request accommodations or other assistance, contact the Academic Support Services Office, extension 73553.

Note: Students materials in electronic media must label the media with their name, hardware used (Mac/pc), and software used (iMovie, Adobe, Photoshop, etc.); emailed assignments will not be credited until student receives instructor acknowledgement.

Required Field Site Experiences: (final dates to be determined in class)

Landscape & Sustainability Site Visit: This trip will introduce students to Southern California sustainability through visits to several contested places in Los Angeles. We discuss the relationship of community and environment through the optic of public space, sustainable lifestyles, and community relations with organizers.

******Landscape and Sustainability Field Site Visits—Friday, June 1******

Housing and Homelessness Site Visits: Lack of affordable housing and homelessness comprise a crisis that is transforming the way people utilize and value urban spaces. This trip will introduce students to homeless communities, as well as to housing models and alternatives that are being implemented in local communities.

******Housing & Homelessness Field Site Visits—Friday, June 8******

U.S. Mexico Border And Tijuana Maquiladora Industries: Our trip to the border will explore the many factors involved in understanding immigration and border economies. Particular emphasis will be placed on examining the connection between global market integration, neo-liberal economic policies, migration and anti-immigrant movements.

******Tijuana Field Site Visit—Fri.-Sa.t, June 15-16******

Field site visits are required and there will not be a chance to make up these visits, though we will make a good faith effort to work around student work schedules and other obligations. Field trip response papers will be collected, read, and evaluated by the instructor. Students will be expected to understand these field experiences in terms presented in course readings in your response papers.

Course Requirements:

- Course Participation: Attendance at all course events, including class participation demonstrating knowledge of readings and field site visits. 35%
- Writing Assignments: (See class handouts for detail assignments)
 - A: *What is Community?* – 4-5 pages (10%)
 - B: *Field Site Visit Papers* 5-7 pages (1-Tijuana, 2-Housing, 3-Landscapes) (3 x 15% = 45%)
 - C: *Community Issue Proposal* – 7-10 pages (10%)

Attendance Policy: Learning will depend on everyone's consistent participation informed by having completed the readings, and you are expected to regularly attend class and all field site visits.

Summer Intensive Courses: Summer courses have a shortened schedule, but we still cover the same amount of readings and field site visits and students still complete the same amount of writing assignments as required for a regular semester class. The experience will be intensive, so schedule your summer term accordingly.

Course Schedule

(asterisk (*) indicates textbook; all other readings are from course packet)

Week 1: Introduction and What is Community?

May 22-24 Tchen, Kohn Kuo Wei, "Rethinking Who We Are: A Basic Discussion of Basic Terms," in Marta Moreno Vega & Cheryll Y. Greene, eds., Voices from the Battlefield: Achieving Cultural Equity, p. 4-9.

Zinn, Maxine Baca and Bonnie Thornton Dill, "Difference and Domination," in Baca and Dill, eds., Women of Color in U.S. Society, Temple U.P., 1994, p. 3-12.

Yeatman, Anna, "Preface," and "Minorities and the Politics of Difference," "State and Community," Postmodern Revisionings of the Political, Routledge, 1994, vii-xii, 80-91, 92-105.

*Davis, Mike and Deepak Sawhney, "Sanbhashana: Los Angeles and the Philosophies of Disaster," in Unmasking LA, 21-36.

Reyes, Eric, "Asian Pacific Queer Space," Privileging Positions: The Sites of Asian American Studies, ed. Gary Okihiro, et al., Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press, 1995, 251-9. [E184.O6 P75 1995](#)

Week 2: Constructing Space/Landscape & Basic Needs I: Food and Sustainability.**May 29-31**

Gupta and Ferguson, "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference," Cultural Anthropology, 7.1 (1992): 6-23.

Tang, Eric, "Collateral Damage: Southeast Asian Poverty in the United States," Social Text, 18.1 (Spr., 2000): 55-81.

*Keil, "Los Angeles as Metaphor," in Unmasking LA, 199-213.

*Yu and Chang, Multiethnic Coalition Building, 1-34 (Oliver & Grant).

"Laotian Organizing Project," APEN (Asian Pacific Environmental Network) Voices, 5.1 (Fall, 2000): 5-18.

Gottlieb, Robert (2004) Rediscovering the River: A Community-Environment Coalition Secures Urban Parkland for L.A." Orion Afield Online. Retrieved from <http://www.oriononline.org/pages/oa/02-2oa/LARiver.html>

Green, Emily (2004) "Green Dreams" Los Angeles Times Magazine. October 31, 2004.

******Landscape and Sustainability Site Visit—Friday, June 1******

Week 3: Constructing Neighborhoods/Exclusions & Basic Needs II: Housing/Homelessness

June 5-7 Soja, E. (2000). "An introduction to the conurbation of greater Los Angeles" in Postmetropolis: critical studies of cities and regions. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, Inc. p.117-144.

Eigner, L. (1993). "On dumpster diving". In Travels with Lisbeth. New York: St. Martin's Press, p. 111-125.

*Yu and Chang, Multiethnic Coalition Building, 169-86 (Navarro).

Stoner, M. (2002). "The globalization of urban homelessness" in M. Dear (Ed.) From Chicago to LA: making sense of urban theory. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 217-33.

Williams, J. (1998). "Domestic violence and poverty: the narratives of homeless women". Frontiers, 19.2: 1-15. (internet version)

++++***What is Community?***++++***Due Tuesday, June 5***++++

********Landscape and Sustainability Response Paper Due--June 7********

********Housing & Homelessness Field Site Visits—Friday, June 8********

Week 4: Borders, Globalization, & Immigration: Constructing Citizenship/Exclusion

June 12-14 Yeatman, "State and Community," Postmodern Revisionings, 92-105.

Tololyan, "The Nation State and Its Others." Diaspora, 1.1 (Spr., 1991), 3-7.

Lowe, Lisa, "Work, Immigration, Gender: New Subjects of Cultural Politics," in Elaine Kim, Lilia Villanueva, and Asian Women United of California, Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women, Beacon Pr., 1997, p. 269-77.

*Urrea, Lake of Sleeping Children, 35-46 & 145-87.

Herzog, Lawrence, "Global Tijuana: The Seven Ecologies of the Border," in Postborder City: Cultural Spaces of Baja California, ed. Michael Dear and Gustavo Leclerc, Routledge, 2003, p. 119-42.

++++***Housing & Homelessness Field Visit Response Paper+++Due Tuesday, June 13***++++

********Border and Tijuana Field Site Visits—Friday-Saturday, June 15-16********

Week 5: Difference and Community (cont.) & Basic Needs III: Safety.

June 19-21 *Nevins, Joseph, "Third World and "Illegal" in the City of Angels," in Unmasking LA, 97-116.

*Urrea, Lake of Sleeping Children, "Dompe Days," 47-62.

Sikes, Gini (1997) "Los Angeles: 'Trust No Bitch'" in 8 Ball Chicks: A Year in the Violent World of Girl Gangsters. Anchor Books: New York,p.40-53,66-69,79-94.

Gilligan, James (2001) "Who Benefits from Violence," and "Two Approaches to Preventing Violence." Preventing Violence. London: Thames and Hudson, 7-28.

*Sawhney, Deepak, "This Side of Paradise," Unmasking LA, 161-80.

++++***Border and Tijuana Field Visit Response Paper+++Due Tuesday, June 19***++++

Week 6: Building Unexpected Solidarities and Solutions.

June 26-28 *Gayatri Spivak and D. Sawhney, "The Occidental Accident,"Unmasking 213-29

*Yu & Chang, Multiethnic Coalition Building, 35-54, (Regalado).

*Urrea, Lake of Sleeping Children, "Introductory Matters," 1-32.

Wright, Talmadge (2002) "Resisting Homelessness: Global, National, and Local Solutions." Contemporary Sociology. Vol. 29, No 1, 27-43.

++++ ***Community Issue Proposal***++++***Due Thursday, June 8***++++

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Course Readings Packet

- Tchen, Kohn Kuo Wei, "Rethinking Who We Are: A Basic Discussion of Basic Terms," in Marta Moreno Vega & Cheryl Y. Greene, eds., Voices from the Battlefield: Achieving Cultural Equity, p. 4-9.
- Zinn, Maxine Baca and Bonnie Thornton Dill, "Difference and Domination," in Baca and Dill, eds., Women of Color in U.S. Society, Temple U.P., 1994, p. 3-12.
- Yeatman, Anna, "Preface," "Minorities and the Politics of Difference," Postmodern Revisionings of the Political, Routledge, 1994, vii-xii, 80-91.
- Reyes, Eric, "Asian Pacific Queer Space," Privileging Positions: The Sites of Asian American Studies, ed. Gary Okihiro, et al., Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press, 1995, 251-9.
- Gupta, Akhil and James Ferguson, "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference," Cultural Anthropology, 7.1 (1992): 6-23.
- Tang, Eric, "Collateral Damage: Southeast Asian Poverty in the United States," Social Text, 18.1 (Spr., 2000): 55-81.
- "Laotian Organizing Project," APEN (Asian Pacific Environmental Network) Voices, 5.1 (Fall, 2000): 5-18.
- Gottlieb, Robert (2004) Rediscovering the River: A Community-Environment Coalition Secures Urban Parkland for L.A." Orion Afield Online. Retrieved from <http://www.oriononline.org/pages/oa/02-2oa/LARiver.html>
- Green, Emily (2004) "Green Dreams" Los Angeles Times Magazine. October 31, 2004.
- Soja, E. (2000). Chapter 5: An introduction to the conurbation of greater Los Angeles in Postmetropolis: critical studies of cities and regions. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, Inc. Pp.117-144.
- Eigner, L. (1993). "On dumpster diving". In Travels with Lisbeth. New York: St. Martin's Press, p. 111-125.
- Stoner, M. (2002). "The globalization of urban homelessness" in M. Dear (Ed.) From Chicago to LA: making sense of urban theory. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 217-33.
- Williams, J. "Domestic Violence and poverty: the narratives of homeless women," Frontiers, 19.2 (1998): 1-15 (downloaded).
- Yeatman, Anna, "State and Community," Postmodern Revisionings of the Political, Routledge, 1994, vii-xii, 80-91, 92-105.
- Tololyan, Khachig, "The Nation State and Its Others: In Lieu of a Preface," Diaspora, 1.1 (Spr., 1991), 3-7.

Course Readings Packet (cont.)

- Lowe, Lisa, "Work, Immigration, Gender: New Subjects of Cultural Politics," Asian "American" Women," in Elaine Kim, Lilia Villanueva, and Asian Women United of California, Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women, Beacon Pr., 1997, p. 269-77.
- Herzog, Lawrence, "Global Tijuana: The Seven Ecologies of the Border," in Postborder City: Cultural Spaces of Baja California, ed. Michael Dear and Gustavo Leclerc, Routledge, 2003, p. 119-42.
- Sikes, Gini "Los Angeles: 'Trust No Bitch'" in 8 Ball Chicks: A Year in the Violent World of Girl Gangsters. Anchor Books: New York, 1997, 40-53, 66-69, 79-94.
- Gilligan, James "Who Benefits from Violence," "Two Approaches to Preventing Violence" Preventing Violence. London: Thames and Hudson, 2001, 7-28 and 131-38.
- Wright, Talmadge (2002) "Resisting Homelessness: Global, National, and Local Solutions." Contemporary Sociology. Vol. 29, No 1, 27-43.

Other readings could use:

Sassen, S. (1998). "America's 'immigration' problem" and "Immigration," in Globalization and its Discontents. New York: New Press. Pp. 31-53 & 200-215.

Malpica, Daniel Melero. "Indigenous Mexican Migrants in a Modern Metropolis: The Reconstruction of Zapotec Communities in Los Angeles," in Latino Los Angeles: Transformation, Communities, and Activism, Ed., Enrique Ochoa and Gilda Ochoa, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2005, p. 111-136.

Lowe, Lisa, "Work, Immigration, Gender: New Subjects of Cultural Politics," Asian "American" Women," in Elaine Kim, Lilia Villanueva, and Asian Women United of California, Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women, Beacon Pr., 1997, p. 269-77.

Martinez, R. (1999) The Manifesto of the Purepecha Plateau. Zone Zero Magazine. Retrieved from <http://www.zonezero.com>

Lowe, Lisa, "Work, Immigration, Gender: Asian "American" Women," in Elaine Kim, Lilia Villanueva, and Asian Women United of California, Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women, Beacon Pr., 1997, p. 269-77.

Shuman, Michael. "Place Matters" in Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age, New York: The Free Press, 31-50.

Editorial Staff of Rodan, "Asian Community Center," in Roots: An Asian American Reader, ed. Amy Tachiki, et al., UCLA, 1971, p. 273-75.

Aguilar-San Juan, Karin, ed., The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s, South End Press, 1994, 1-15 (Aguilar-San Juan), & 71-100 (Kim).

Pfeffer Solomowitz, Rachel, "Voices of Homeless Girls in San Francisco," Voices in the Streets: Explorations in Gender, Media, and Public Space, eds. Susan J. Drucker and Gary Gumpert, New Jersey: Hampton Press, 1997, 185-99.

Snow, David. "Street People," Contexts 2.1 (2003): 12-17.

Zhou, Min, "The Changing Face of America: Immigration, Race/Ethnicity, and Social Mobility," Mass Migration to the United States: classical and contemporary periods, Ed. Pyong Gap Min, Altamira Press, 2002, 65-97.

National Alliance to End Homelessness. "'A Plan: Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years.'" Retrieved from www.endhomelessness.org

Shuman, Michael. "Place Matters" in Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age, New York: The Free Press, 31-50.