

Chc/Lat 153
Spring '05

J 156: Cross-Cultural Research on Urban Gangs

Prof. Vigil: SE II 2355
Vigil@uci.edu; Spring 2005
TA: Nguyen, Gonzalez
OF HRS: T, TH 12-1PM, or by appoint.

T,Th:11-12:20PM
Rm: SSL 290
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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, 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. Dawley, D.: A Nation of Lords
2. Huff, R.: Gangs in America, 3rd Ed.
3. Vigil, J.D.: Barrio Gangs.
4. Vigil, J.D.: A Rainbow of Gangs

Course Evaluation

Read other books and articles on any of the social control issues or combination thereof (i.e., families, schooling, police) of your choice for a research paper; 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. If you know ("or are") a person who was ("once") a gang member, then think of doing a life history of that person and integrate the gang theories and other explanations into that ("auto") biography. Check with instructor or TA to clear topic. The Media Journal is like a diary of your ideas on the videos/films of the class and how these media presentations connect with lectures and readings; it should be a running account of your ruminations/thoughts/criticisms throughout the quarter.

- 1) Outline of proposed topic (2-3 pp., including preliminary references; due 4th week, 4-25 (10%).

2)Midterm: 5th week, 5-2 (25%).

2)Research topic progress reports: (4-6 pp., summary and references; due 8th week, 5-23 (10%).

3)Research Paper: (10-12 pp., due last week, 6-6; (20%).

5)Final: TBA, Finals week, June 13, (25%).

4)Media Journal: Notes on connections between media and youth gangs, especially media/films presented in class (10%).

5)Attendance (is an issue when you are on the cusp of a grade).

Week Date Lecture Topics and Readings

1	4-4	Introduction; Projects and papers. Readings: Huff: vii-xxvii; Vigil: Forewords/Prefaces.
2	4-11	Urban Gangs in Historical Perspective Readings: Vigil(BG): Ch. 1; Huff: Ch. 15. Media: Dead End.
3	4-18	Theoretical Orientation and Street Research. Readings: Huff: Ch. 1, 5, 7, 13. Media: Angels with Dirty Faces.
4	4-25	Multiple Marginality and Cross-Cultural Research; outline of paper due. Readings: Huff: Ch. 11; Vigil (RG): Ch. 1-2. Media: Blackboard Jungle or Gangs: A Secret History
5	5-2	Midterm Exam; media event or speaker.
6	5-9	Gender Issues in Gangs. Readings: Huff: Ch. 2, 12. Media: La Vida Loca.
7	5-16	A Rainbow of Gangs: Power Point; Asian Americans. Readings: Huff: Ch. 4, 14; Vigil(RG): Ch. 7-8. Media: Life like Dust.
8	5-23	African Americans and Salvadoran Americans. Readings: Dawley: all; Huff: Ch. 6, 8-9; Vigil (RG): Ch. 5-6, 9-10. Media: Gang Cops; Dreams Under Fire.
9	5-30	Chicanos in the Projects: Power Point. Readings: Vigil(BG) all; Vigil (RG): Ch. 3-4
10	6-6	Programs and Policies: Readings: Huff: Part 4; Vigil (RG): Ch. 11.
	6-13	Finals week