

INF STD 289: Oral History

Winter 2024

The Information Studies Department at UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders) and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

Professor: Thuy Vo Dang, Ph.D. (she/her)
Class Meetings: Wednesday, 12:30 - 3:50 PM, SEIS 111
Office Hours: by appt: calendly.com/thuyvodang
Office: Moore Hall 3039C
Email: thuyvodang@ucla.edu
Course Website: <https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/155517>

Description

4 units

Seminar, 3.5 hours. Oral history is a structured practice of recording and preserving first hand life stories and information and making these primary sources available to others. This seminar covers the principles and practice of oral history, with a focus on the ethics of recording life stories for long-term preservation and public access. After an overview of how oral histories have been collected and disseminated, the seminar will focus on best practices for digital audio and video oral history recordings in both in-person and remote scenarios. Students will conduct and process one oral history interview and have the opportunity to engage with open-source digital oral history collections to review the challenges and opportunities of dissemination strategies such as exhibits, publications, and social media outputs.

Required Texts: All reading materials are available in electronic format and linked in the Course Schedule.

Recommended Book: Teresa Barnett and Chon Noriega, eds. *Oral History and Communities of Color*. Los Angeles: UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press, 2013.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required: Audio or video recording device; your personal smart phones will work for the oral history recording. There are 2 Zoom H1 recorder available for check out in the IS Media Lab on a first come first serve basis.

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to plan and implement an oral history project. This includes being able to address ethical and legal issues related to recording, preserving, and providing access to a narrator's life story. You will be able to conduct and process one complete oral history interview and understand the uses of oral history as a primary source.

Course Policies

Grades will be calculated using a standard scale.: A+ =98-100%; A =93-97; A- is 90-92; B+ =88-89; B =83-87; B- =80-82, C+ =78-79, C =73-77, C- =70-72, D+ =68-69, D =63-67, D- = 60-62, and F = anything 59% or below. Late assignments will be penalized one-third letter grade for every unexcused

day overdue (e.g., B to B-). Extensions must be requested in advance of the assignment deadline. Please keep all graded assignments so that any discrepancies can be easily and fairly straightened out.

Class participation makes up 20% of your final grade. Come to every class prepared to discuss the week's readings and participate in activities. Your class participation grade depends not only on attendance and frequency of participation, but also on the substance of your participation and whether your comments and questions contribute to the creation of an intellectually rigorous learning community. The Discussion Board on BruinLearn is an excellent way to participate; you are welcome to start discussion threads of your own! If you cannot participate verbally or need assistance to do so, please meet with me as early as possible in the quarter to discuss strategies for improving your participation level and, if necessary, setting up alternatives to verbal in-class participation.

Grading Breakdown: Class Participation 20%; Proposal 10%; Annotated Bibliography 10%; Written Reflection 10%; Oral History Project 40% (a rubric with a breakdown of the requirements will be given out during week 3); Pecha Kucha/Lightning Talk Presentation 10%

Communication: I will regularly use BruinLearn to communicate with you about this class, so be sure to check your student email address several times each week. I strive to reply to student queries within two business days. If you email me and do not hear a reply within two business days, please resend your message.

Academic Integrity: UCLA is a community of scholars. In this community, all members including faculty, staff and students alike are responsible for maintaining standards of academic honesty. As a student and member of the University community, you are here to get an education and are, therefore, expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. You are evaluated on your own merits. Cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions without the permission of the professor, or other kinds of academic dishonesty are considered unacceptable behavior and will result in formal disciplinary proceedings usually resulting in suspension or dismissal. Additional information can be found on the website for the Office of the Dean of Students: <https://deanofstudents.ucla.edu/student-conduct-code>

Accessibility: Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

Schedule // [Complete Reading List](#)*

*The professor reserves the right to modify this reading list and schedule to improve the learning outcomes for the class.

Week	Theme	Readings (all accessible here) & In-Class Activities	Assignments (due the week it is listed)
1 (1/10)	Introductions & Community Agreements	<i>No readings due this week</i> Activities: Community Agreements; Who's In Our Class?	
2 (1/17)	History & Memory	Week 2 Articles & Oral History Theory (Intro) Activity: I Remember	

3 (1/24)	Ethics & Power Guest presenters: mads le and Kai Nham	Week 3 Articles & Oral History Theory (Ch. 9) & The Oral History Association Statement on Ethics: https://oralhistory.org/oha-statement-on-ethics/ Activity: Structured and Unstructured Interviews	500-700 word proposal for your oral history project (10%)
4 (1/31)	Self & Subjectivity	Week 4 Articles Activity: Speaking of Family (*bring in an object of significance to you/your family)	Annotated bibliography (10%)
5 (2/7)	Silence & Reticence *NO CLASS MEETING*	Week 5 Articles Optional one-on-one zoom appointments available from 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Activity: Audio & Video Recording analysis	Written Reflection (10%)
6 (2/14)	Technologies of Storytelling	Week 6 Articles	
7 (2/21)	Place-based strategies	Week 7 Articles Activity: Placing the Stories	
8 (2/28)	Preservation & Access	Week 8 Articles Activity: Oral History Metadata	
9 (3/6)	Interpretation & Curation	Week 9 Articles Activity: presentations	Presentations (10%)
10 (3/13)	Presentations & Celebration	<i>No readings due this week</i> Activity: presentations	Presentations (10%)

Finals Week: Oral History Project (40%) due by 12pm (noon) on March 20.

Resources:

Navigating Student Services

UCLA's new Student Affairs Guidebook gathers key resources for graduate and undergraduate students related to living and learning during these tumultuous times:

<https://www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/guidebook>. Students can always consult the Student Care Managers program website for information about supportive services, including information about confidential one-on-one consultation: <http://www.studentincrisis.ucla.edu/Who-can-Help>.

Basic Needs/Food Resources

If you find yourself having difficulty accessing meals and/or groceries, go to this link for information on a variety of on- and off- campus resources available to students: <https://basicneeds.ucla.edu/>.

LGBTQIA Resources

The UCLA LGBT Campus Resource Center (www.lgbt.ucla.edu) provides a range of services supporting intersectional identity development as well as fostering unity, wellness, and an open, safe, and inclusive environment. UCLA also has a range of policies and services especially relevant to transgender students here: www.lgbt.ucla.edu/Trans-At-UCLA.

Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, depression, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. UC offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, consider utilizing the confidential mental health services available on campus. I encourage you to reach out to the Counseling Center for support (www.counseling.ucla.edu and 310-825-0768, available 24/7). An on campus counselor or after-hours clinician is available 24/7.

Assault, Harassment, and Discrimination

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1stFloor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@caps.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768. You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, (310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491. Please note, I am legally required to share information of this nature with the Title IX office.