

Spring 2020 AAS 360

Oral History Project

You will conduct an oral history interview (via phone or zoom is okay) of a Korean American in order to analyze and contextualize how their individual experiences correspond to the larger historical, cultural, and sociopolitical Korean American experience that we've read about and discussed throughout the semester.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will conduct **qualitative research** that involves creating questions for interview, interviewing an individual, and transcribing the interview.
- Students will write a 3-5 page cohesive essay that has an argument, **analyzes** the oral history conducted, and **synthesizes** the oral history with the materials covered in class.
- Students will **quote** course materials (in-class content, assigned readings) and their oral history interview at least once **each** and explain the significance of their quote in their overall argument.
- Students will **find** and **quote** at least one outside scholarly source and explain the significance of their quote in their overall argument.

You will turn in:

- A one-page proposal that will explain what aspect of your interview subject's life you intend to focus on and why, who you intend to interview, and a list of questions you will ask. This proposal will be due **Wednesday April 15 by 11 am**.
- A 4-5 page double spaced essay (Due **Wednesday May 20 by 11:59 pm**).
- A transcript of your oral history interview (Due **Wednesday May 20 by 11:59 pm**).

The essay should include three parts:

Description and Observations (1-1.5 pages)

1. Who is the interviewee?
 - a. (the interviewee's background, relationship to student, etc.)
2. What was the interview like?
 - a. (when and where it took place, interesting details, etc)
3. How did your relationship to the interviewee change based on the interview? How did your relationship to the interviewee influence how they answered your questions?
 - a. Was the interviewee more or less likely to share certain stories or information because of who you were?
 - b. What role did your age, gender, sexuality, race, class, or other attribute play in the dynamics of the interview?
 - c. Did language influence the interview?

Analysis (2-4 pages)

1. **Analyze** the oral history. Use the questions below to guide you:
 - What connections and/or parallels do you see between your interviewee's story and what was covered in the course materials?

- How might your interviewee's story have been impacted by the events and structures we have discussed in class?
 - i. Identify specific events and structures that may have impacted your interviewee.
 - 1. Some examples of events include:
 - a. Wars
 - b. Passing of legislation
 - 2. Some examples of structures include:
 - a. Gender roles
 - b. Labor and economics
 - c. Race, Racial Categorization, and Racism
 - ii. **This is a great place where you can quote the course materials and transcript (each at least once).**
 - iii. **Explain** how your interviewee's story illustrates the effects of these events and structures?
- How is your interviewee's story useful in your understanding of Korean and/or (Korean) American history and of present-day America?
 - i. Give specific examples (quote!)
 - ii. **Explain** how these examples are useful in your understanding of Korean and/or (Korean) American history and of present-day (Korean) America.

Conclusion (.5-1 page)

Conclude your essay by summing up the main points and summarizing the significance of your interviewee's oral history to you.

Grading Rubric (out of 25 points total)

- Proposal: 3 points
- Transcript: 4 points
- 4-5 page essay: 18 points

Description and Observations (1-1.5 pages) 4 points			
Who is the interviewee? What was the interview like? How did your relationship to the interviewee change based on the interview? How did your relationship to the interviewee	The description is lacking details, incoherent, and careless. The reader can get little idea of what the interviewee and interview were like. (1.5 points)	Some details, coherency, and care is apparent, but still not enough to get a good idea of what the interviewee and interview were like. (2.5 points)	(3 - 4 points) The interviewee and interview process were described in a way that the reader can get a good idea of what the interviewee and interview were like. (4 points)

influence how they answered your questions?			
Analyze the oral history (2-4 pages) 6 points			
What connections and/or parallels do you see between your interviewee's story and what was covered in the course materials? (2 points possible)	Does not sufficiently show connections and/ or parallels to course materials (0/2)	Shows connections and/ or parallels to course materials without using interview excerpts and references to course materials (1/2)	Shows connections and/ or parallels to course materials using interview excerpts and references to course materials (2/2)
How might your interviewee's story have been impacted by the events and structures we have discussed in class? (2 points possible)	Does not sufficiently show how interviewee's story has been impacted by events and structures discussed in class (0/2)	Shows how interviewee's story has been impacted by the events and structures discussed in class without using interview excerpts and references to course materials (1/2)	Shows how interviewee's story has been impacted by the events and structures discussed in class using interview excerpts and references to course materials (2/2)
How is your interviewee's story useful in your understanding of American history and of present-day America? (2 points possible)	Does not sufficiently show how interviewee's story is useful in your understanding of American history (0/2)	Shows how interviewee's story is useful in your understanding of American history without using interview excerpts and concrete examples from American history and present-day America (1/2)	Shows how interviewee's story is useful in your understanding of American history using interview excerpts and concrete examples from American history and present-day America (2/2)
Conclusion (2 points)			
Summarize and tie your interview and analysis/argument together, restating your argument and your oral history subject's significance.	Does not sufficiently reiterate your argument and how your interviewee's oral history is significant to you. (0/2)	Somewhat summarizes the arguments and perspectives put for in your paper and ties all the components together. Somewhat demonstrates the oral history subject's significance. (1/2)	Sufficiently summarizes the arguments and perspectives put for in your paper and ties all the components together. Demonstrates the oral history subject's significance. (2/2)
Overall quality of writing (6 points)			
Use proper grammar,	Many grammatical	A few grammatical and	No grammatical or

spelling, and sentence structure. (2 points possible)	and spelling errors (0/2)	spelling errors (1/2)	spelling errors (2/2)
Use transitions and logical organization of your writing to ensure a natural “flow” of your argument and writing. (2 points possible)	Essay is disorganized and writing is choppy. (0/2)	The writer’s train of thought and argument organization is evident, but needs more polishing. (1/2)	Properly uses transitions and logical organization of writing to ensure a natural “flow” of the argument and writing. (2/2)
Writing is compelling and interesting to read	Writing makes no effort to interest the reader in the subject (0/2)	Writing makes some effort to make the subject matter interesting and compelling (1/2)	Writing is compelling and interesting to read (2/2)