***Unit III Project***

*Ethnography*

For our third writing project, you will write an ethnography of a group or community of your choosing. You will first submit a topic proposal consisting of a community or group on campus or in Lawrence and an issue or characteristic of that group that you are interested in. Once your topic is approved, you will perform original research, through observation and interviews, on the group you’ve chosen. Finally, you will find and use peer-reviewed academic research, the same way we did in the Unit II project, on either your group or the issue/characteristics on which your paper will be focused.

The paper itself will use both your original research and the peer-reviewed research you have found on academic databases (e.g. MLA Bibliography) to explain the role or importance of the issue/characteristic in the specific community you have studied. You should include an introduction that both briefly introduces your community or group and presents a main claim (or thesis) about the issue/characteristic of the group that you have studied. The body of the essay should include a thorough explanation of your primary research (observations, interviews, etc.) as well as an analysis of that research. This analysis should be your own, but should also make reference to peer-reviewed sources that inform your analysis of the issue/characteristic.

In Unit II we explored the purpose(s) and function(s) of education, and we explored a various topics including race, gender, and identity. If we perceive education as a means for interacting with our local communities (our social responsibility) or preparing us for relationships outside academia, then we can begin to see a lot of value in ethnography.

*Purposes*

* To practice conducting original research. We’ll be discussing and practicing two ways of doing in-person research: field observation and interviews.
* To continue working on finding and incorporating peer-reviewed research productively and thoroughly. In this paper, the sources that you find in the library and academic journals will be used to back up the ideas that you come to through your original research, rather than serving as the primary research.
* To gain access to a community you aren’t associated with, or to become more familiar with a community you already participate in.
* To practice analyzing and using an unfamiliar academic genre: the ethnography. We will look at several samples in class and you will be responsible for determining the characteristics of the genre and making choices about how to use those characteristics.
* To practice writing in a researcher’s voice—one that reports the facts, but also uses them to interpret and even to argue.

*Possibilities*

* Greek fraternity/sorority
* Out-of-state students
* International students
* Graduate students
* Retirement communities
* Food culture (e.g. baristas)
* Music culture (e.g. local musicians)
* University club teams
* Teacher opinions on certain subject (e.g. assessment)

*Grading criteria*

You’ll be asked to do multiple things in this project: conduct at least two interviews (question and answers), write an abstract, write an annotated bibliography, construct rough drafts, and a final draft. All of this will be an aspect to your final grade for this project:

* Two interviews (with questions and answers): 50 points
* Abstract: 50 points
* Annotated bibliography: 50 points
* Rough drafts: 75 points
* Final draft: 125 points

Total: 350 points

*Requirements*

* 6-7 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins
* 2 hours of field research (minimum)
* 2 interviews (minimum)
* Use of at least 2 scholarly peer-reviewed sources
* MLA citation

*Schedule (due dates)*

**Wednesday, April 1**: no class; field research or interviews

**Friday, April 3**: no class; field research or interviews

**Wednesday, April 15**: Abstract due

**Friday, April 17**: Interview questions & answers due (time stamped and signed by interviewee)

**Monday, April 20**: Annotated Bibliography due

**Friday, April 24**: Rough Draft #1 workshop (bring at least three pages to class)

**Friday, May 1**: Rough Draft #2 workshop (bring complete draft to class)

**Wednesday, May 6**: Final Draft is due (bring a copy to class & post on Blackboard)