

## Entering the Field, Positioning

**Due:** Wed, 2/8 on D2L by class time – 9 AM

**Grade:** 100 pts (3% of grade)

### Assignment

Using the readings from the course (Wed, 2/1-Mon, 2/6), briefly define participant-observation and its goals. Then, also using the readings, discuss some of the concerns that an ethnographer would have about a) how to enter a field and b) their position or role in their field site.

In your previous essay, you chose a potential field to study. By this point, you should have entered the field and done some observations. Discuss *how* you entered the field (e.g., who did you contact? Did you ask permission? What was the first observation like?). Second, discuss what your role or position in the field is (e.g., which of your identities do participants orient to?) and how your role might shape the type of data you are able to gather. Remember to connect this discussion to concerns listed in the readings. Also add any intuitions about types of communication that stand out in this community – what might you focus your paper on?

This write up will be a part of your final paper (unless you change your study), so the better work you do now, the less work you will have to do later.

### Requirements:

- 1.5-3 double spaced pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins **adjust to 3-4 pages I think**
- Organization
  - o Introduction of the paper with a thesis sentence
  - o Each paragraph has a topic sentence
  - o Use quotes (from readings) and/or examples from your field experiences to support points you make in different parts of the essay
  - o A good organizational trick: quote from readings, explain quote in your own words, give an example of concept (e.g. Duranti (year) says participant observation is...That means...For example in my study I will...)
- Citations:
  - o You must directly address readings throughout this paper
  - o Cite ideas and quotes from readings with last name of the author, and if you use a quote, the page number – **DO NOT INCLUDE TITLES OF READINGS**
    - i.e. Lindlof and Taylor (year) define a participant observation as, “.....” (p. #)