

SOC150: Introduction to Sociology
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Extra Credit Opportunity #3: Mini-Ethnography

Conduct a "field study" in which you witness some part of the social world, record observations of what occurs there, and relate those observations to course material.

1. **Pick a location** in which you will conduct your research. It should be a public location (no residences, offices, restrooms, or private vehicles; but malls, parks, campuses, parking lots, stores, restaurants, busses, trains, and subways are acceptable).
2. **Pick a course topic, concept, or idea** – whether from the lecture, syllabus, or any of the readings. Email me for approval in advance, to make sure it's something that works. Any terms defined in the course glossary would be fine, for example. You may, though are not required, to explicitly do one of the following:
 - a. formulate a specific research question or hypothesis, and be sure to make it both narrow enough to do something with (for example, clothing and hairstyle rather than culture, or car type and condition rather than wealth) and broad enough to be able to observe (interracial couples may be uncommon; homosexuality might not be clearly apparent). *OR*
 - b. organize the observations you collect (see below) in a kind of "grounded theory" exercise, where your generalizations are inductive and emerge from the data.
3. **Discreetly observe the setting for one hour, looking for instances of whatever you chose above.** Try to pick a time during which the setting is likely to be both safe and populated (i.e. not midnight in an alley). Try to conceal the fact that you are observing. Act natural. Immerse yourself in the setting. Look and act as anyone else would in that setting. But keep paper and pen handy.
4. **Record observations during that hour**, relating what you observe (item 3 above) to the topic, concept, or idea that you have selected (item 2 above).
5. **Submit your observations along with a summary of not more than two pages** (typed, double-spaced, 11-point font, 1" margins, no kerning or other weird tricks) sociologically addressing both the setting and the topic selected. This **MUST** be submitted via the TurnItIn link available on Moodle, and will **NOT** be accepted late.
 - **Up to 2%** will be added to your grade, inclusive of
 - a. up to 1% for the amount of effort in the collection and analysis of data, and
 - b. up to 1% for the degree of sociological acumen applied to your observations.