**Module 2 Project Progress Notes**

UNST 220, Spring 2016

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| Carefully follow these instructions:   1. Download this Word document. 2. “Save As” the following: “YourLastName\_Module2ProjectProgressNotes\_DueDate” 3. Type your responses into each question/section below. 4. Re-read for clarity of ideas and neatness/formatting. Take care to be sure that you hand in a well-organized document. These should be *neat and tidy* – easy to read. Your grade will reflect the degree to which you follow the following guidelines:    1. All entries should be in a Word document (or similar program), formatted as follows: single-space, 12 pt font, Times New Roman (or similar), 1” margins. Skip a line between questions/entries.    2. Project Progress Notes should be uploaded to Dropbox by Thursday (11pm) of the second week of each module. |

**Your Name:** Ahmed Abdulkareem

**Book Review**

1. By now you should have read most of your Book Review book, taking notes about the community featured in your story.

* Carefully re-read the entire Book Review assignment guide, found in the “Assignment Guides” folder in the Content tab on the course home page.
* Use this guide to help you craft a draft of a Book Review.
* Save your Book Review draft as “YourLastName\_BookReviewDRAFT\_Date”.
* Upload to the Book Review Dropbox folder by Thursday 4/21 @11PM.

**Community Profile Project**

2. Now that you’ve chosen a community for your Community Profile Project, it’s time to get started. Below is what’s expected for Module 2 to keep you on track. This is cut/pasted from the Community Profile Project guide, which you can consult to see what’s coming up and what will be expected for your final paper. Remember: During the research phase, you should plan to spend at least ***five hours a week*** participating in community life and observing specific relationships, structures, behaviors, and patterns that exist within your chosen social group.

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Module 2

Now it’s time to dive in! Community researchers use a method called **participant observation**. A participant observer is someone who observes social interaction and structure while actively engaging in community life. Participant observers want to blend in to the community so that their presence doesn’t impact how people behave or relate to one another. You should plan on spending at least five hours per week in your community for the first five weeks of the quarter.

What does observation entail? How do you know what you are looking for? How do you record what you see? Observation is pretty straightforward – you’ll hang out with your community as you normally do, but as you go about your business you’ll pay attention to particular patterns, structures, or interactions. For each week of observation, you will have specific features of community life that you are assigned to look out for.

While you want to be unobtrusive and not disturb the natural flow of community life, observation is a fairly active process. As you observe, you’ll need to open all of your senses to try and take in the small details of community life. Things such as the way community members dress, their gestures, facial expressions, and bits of overheard conversation can all provide insight into the relationships and structure of your community. Not only do you have to watch and listen, but you also need to write down what you see. If you don’t take notes as you observe, you’ll fail to capture many of your basic impressions.

Record what you see in a **field journal.** Your field journal notes can be handwritten or typed on a computer. Your writing can be informal and it doesn’t have to be grammatically correct, as long as it is thorough, makes sense to you, and records what you saw. You might want to include pictures, artifacts, sketches, diagrams, or maps in your field journal. The only rules are that you must organize your notes by heading. (For example, this week you’ll make a relationship map and be looking at the social networks and demography of your community. For each trait you are observing, you should have a separate, identifiable heading, like “Demography”.) And you need to date your observations. By dating your observations, you’ll be able to see patterns over time and/or trace a chronology when you write your paper.

As you observe, you’ll also want to keep track of the connections and patterns that you are starting to see. Some researchers find it helpful to write “memos” when they experience a particularly mind-blowing insight. You could also create a sidebar in your journal where you’ll record your analysis and interpretations of what you see, any connections you make to our course materials and/or to other observations.

As you observe, your challenge is to try and view your community as an outsider would. Sociology has been called the process of seeing the “strange in the familiar,” in other words, learning to identify and analyze the relationships and group behaviors that we often overlook or take for granted.

In your field notes, you should observe the following aspects of your community:

* **Relationship Map:** As you observe, you’ll create a basic relationship map that shows the members of your community and how they are connected to one another. This can be a simple diagram of dots or initials representing each community member and lines showing who interacts with whom. You could use bold, heavy lines to represent close relationships and broken or dotted lines to show weaker ones. Feel free to be as detailed and creative as you like with your map.
* **Social Network:** The relationship map is one way to represent the social network of community members, but you also might consider how your community is networked to other communities, which members play a role in facilitating that connection, who, if anyone, is the hub of your community or plays a specific role holding everyone together, and who is on the fringes of your group. Keep notes on the network(s) within and connected to your community and the roles members play in those networks.
* **Demography:** How would you describe the members of your community? Note some of their characteristics like age, gender, race/ethnicity, whatever seems relevant to your particular group. If you are studying your workplace, you might note people’s job titles or responsibilities. If you are studying your neighborhood, maybe you’ll notice patterns about who lives where or who uses certain areas of the community at various times.
* **Belonging:** How does your community determine who belongs to it? Are there specific attributes, values, or commonalities that all members share? What holds you together as a community?
* **Rituals/Activities:** What types of activities do community members engage in on a day-to-day basis? Are these activities divided-up in any particular way? Does your community have specific rituals or customs that you follow?
* **Rules/Behaviors:** This may overlap with rituals/activities and sense of belonging, but what formal and informal rules exist within your community? How do members recognize these rules? When, if ever, is it acceptable to break them?

You may not have in-depth observations for all of these categories just yet, but observe and note at least one thing for each heading. **You will turn in your field notes as part of your Module 2 Project Progress Notes – cut/paste them below.** If you’ve taken handwritten notes or have sketches or diagrams, you can scan these or take photos and save them as a pdf, and upload them to the Module 2 Project Progress Notes folder (Save as YourLastName\_Mod2FieldNotes\_Date). There’s no need to “clean-up” your notes before submitting them to the Dropbox, but all of the above components should be included.