**Summary of changes made to Proposal 2011Z2576**

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your comments. We have made the revisions to address each request as follows, and uploaded the amended files. The new files are listed as documents #4 and #7 with our application (they can be distinguished from the old versions by the “.doc” suffix rather than “.docx”)

01/31/11 17:36:34   
I think the documents were well done and it’s obvious the researchers reviewed requirements prior to submitting. I have a few points of concern that need to be addressed before full approval can be recommended.  
  
1)      On consent form, please state more clearly why subject is being asked to participate.

We added the following lines to the first section: “*By participating in this study, you will help foreign language education researchers and teachers learn more about ESL students’ development of intercultural communication skills as they work together on ethnographic projects in class.”*  
  
2)      As a reviewer reading the consent form as a prospective subject, I am left unclear as to what information researchers will be focusing on. I doubt that the subject, after reading the consent form, will know how the researcher will be viewing/reviewing their work.

We added the following information to the “Purpose of the Study” section: “*We will analyze your work (for example: online collaborative work, worksheets, and presentation slides) to look for signs of your growth in intercultural understanding and intercultural communication skills.”*

Also, it was mentioned in the synopsis that some personal information may be documented by subjects in their work. Please state clearly how subject\'s work will be reviewed by researcher and what may be done with personal information (if anything). Perhaps an expanded “purpose of study” is warranted.

We removed the line about administering a survey, since the survey will not be used. Although we will collect background information in the interview, no identifying information will be published. We will ensure confidentiality as detailed in the privacy and confidentiality of participants section.

3)      Please replace current language regarding TxState IRB contacts to the following: “research participants\' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – lasser@txstate.edu), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

This section was amended to read: *“Questions, concerns, or complaints about research participants' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – lasser@txstate.edu), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).”*  
  
02/01/11 17:40:42   
Good outline of the study. However, I am a bit concerned about the students\' rights to participate since the study materials are directly linked to the students\' course curriculum. I am aware that the course grades my not be affected by non-participation, but the purpose of the study and materials to be used is not clearly stated.

A section describing the students’ project and its pedagogical purpose was added to the synopsis at the beginning of the section entitled “Recruitment and Consent Procedures”. A second section was added describing the purpose of the study and the study’s theoretical background.”

Please include one or two sample questions on the consent form, so students can have an idea of the questions they may be answering during the interview phase.

The following language was added to give an example of questions: *“We will ask questions such as “How (if at all) did this project help you understand cultures other than that of Americans” and “How did your experiences in this project help you in other areas of your studies or language learning?”*