

Introduction to Anthropology

Ethnographic Assignment (5%)

Due Date: _____

A Sporting Event: An Ethnographic Exercise

This exercise is designed to prepare you for the ethnographic film assignment to come. You have been given an introduction to anthropological fieldwork and seen how anthropologists perform their tasks in the field. In this exercise you will be given questions to ask and suggestions for observation but you should also not be timid to add onto those suggestions and questions as you see fit. Some of your own questions might better serve your individual experience. The final product, to be turned in with your essay, is to be written in the form of a story. That is, write your notes by hand during the exercise and type them up, concentrating on telling the story of your experience as if you were telling a friend.

You are to attend a sporting event and observe the activity within and around that event. Below are some questions that you might ask yourself as you observe. Feel free to add onto or personalize these questions.

Describe the type of sporting event.

What age group is engaged in this activity?

Describe the playing area.

What are the spectators doing? Are they highly engaged? Not so much? Why?

Are there any superstitions or superstitious behaviors that you can identify (either the crowd or individuals)?

What is the significance of the team's name? Is there a mascot? Is there a special cheering section? Describe

What are women doing in this public space? What are men doing? Children?

How would you profile the spectators you see? The athletes? Are they wealthy, poor, of a particular ethnic group, young, old, male, female? What would account for this?

Ask some spectators how they feel about the event. Ask the athletes how they feel.

How do the "winners" behave? The "losers" Why?

Sporting events take place in public spaces where people are usually relaxed and talkative (well talkative, anyway). You should have no trouble getting your "informants" to share their thoughts!

I have posted the schedule for Dawson teams as a LEA announcement. Those games are only a suggestion; you may attend any live sporting event of your choice.

The completion of this exercise is essential to the essay so please, no extensions! Have fun...