

## ANTH 2517 FA 2014

### Assignment 1 Observation of a Chinese Restaurant

The purpose of this first assignment is to draw attention to, and build upon, your ability to observe. (You can also enjoy some participant observation by eating at the restaurant!)

#### Preparation for field work:

##### Part 1.

Due Sept 22

Watch youtube video TED talk on Chinese-American Food and answer the following questions to prepare for your fieldwork.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6MhV5Rn63M>

Questions:

1. Why is American Chinese food an important study topic for anthropologists?
2. Give 3 examples of American Chinese food that Chinese people don't recognize and explain their origins.
3. Give 3 examples of 'Chinese food' in other countries that differs from North American 'Chinese food'.
4. What topics interest you to examine further?

Bring your answers to class, and bring some ideas of what you would like to observe for the assignment

##### Part 2.

Due Sept 24

Read the PDF of the chapter from *Eating Chinese* By Lily Cho. This is a fairly dense book, with lots of social science theory in it. Take your time in reading, focus and reread. Work towards understanding what the author is talking about, even if you don't fully understand everything.

Cho, L. 2010. On the menu: time and Chinese restaurant counterculture. Chapter2. *Eating Chinese: Culture on the Menu in Small Town Canada.* 44-79.

Questions:

1. What is the author saying about diasporic studies? (A diaspora is a movement of a population from its original homeland)
2. What is she saying about the Chinese diaspora that formed the small-town Chinese restaurants in Canada?
3. What is she saying about time?

4. What does the chapter say about 'Canadian food'?

5. What does the chapter say about 'Chinese food'?

### **Field Assignment**

Due Oct. 6

Now that you can easily see the intellectual differences between a TED talk and an academic chapter, you can aim your work appropriately for the grade you would like to receive. One at the level of the TED talk will get a lower mark than a more academically engaged piece of writing. For a high grade, you are not expected to write at the level of the book chapter, but do try to bring theory into your ideas, and use references in your writing.

Consider what you would like to investigate in your visit to a Chinese restaurant. Draw on both or either homework assignment to think about what you might observe and what you should be looking for in your observations. You are also encouraged to look at the additional reference listed below, and go on-line to JSTOR to look for more articles. Note your interests in your journal.

If you are eating at the restaurant you are studying, you probably don't need permission to study the menu, the layout of the restaurant, the decorations, the clientele or whatever your topic may be. However, if you want to talk to the workers/owner, please explain that you are doing this as a class assignment and ask only a few, brief questions. Go at a time of day that is not busy for the restaurant so that you don't bother the workers. Be respectful. This is a place of work.

### **Written Report:**

Your paper should be no more than 1000 words. It should first give a description of whatever it is you observed (about 50% of the length). Then you should tie that to an analysis of what you saw. An 'A' paper would have a strong analysis and tie the observations to no more than 3 peer-reviewed references (which can include either homework reading or other assigned readings). Cite in-text (author year) and at the end of the paper using a style that resembles what is used in class and below (no footnotes for example).

### **Additional References**

(these are from JSTOR –go on there to find them and/or look for others)

Chen, S.C. and J.A. Elston. 2013. Entrepreneurial motives and characteristics: An analysis of small restaurant owners. *International Journal of Hospitality Management* 35:294-305.

Choi, J., J.-M. Lee and M.-S. Cho. 2010. East Asian cuisine perceptions in New York City between 1997 and 2007. *British Food Journal* 113(11): 1427-1438.