

ANTH 498 C /SOCI 498 D

CYBERSPACE ETHNOGRAPHY

RESEARCH PAPER PROSPECTUS GUIDELINES

The prospectus for the research paper is due on MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009, in class.

The prospectus is worth 5% of the total course grade, and is marked out of 15 points. While the contents and even the focus of your research will inevitably shift during the course of your work, it is important that you set some goals and establish a plan from early on. The locus of participant observation projects should *not* change.

This prospectus will provide incentive for investigating a body of literature and beginning to articulate a research focus; it will assist the instructor in offering guidance if any is necessary. If the prospectus is *not* approved by the course director, he will contact you immediately, by email.

For those who will be undertaking participant observation projects, you should familiarize yourselves with the main ethical guidelines of the Association of Internet Researchers and the American Anthropological Association (see our readings), and, you *must* also submit to me a complete ethics review form for you to be able to undertake research as a Concordia student. That form, like this document, is available on the Projects page of the course website. If you need to print the form and complete it by hand, please bring it to class on the date the prospectus is due.

In the prospectus, you are to identify the following:

- (1) your chosen topic of interest
- (2) your main research question, or the problem you wish to focus on
- (3) why you wish to undertake this project and what you think will be gained from it
- (4) the methodology that you plan to use
- (5) and sources of supporting literature (or the locus of your participant observation if that is applicable, why you have chosen it, and how you plan to conduct an ethical investigation. A bibliography should also be included, but it can be sparing.)

“A” range grades—the prospectus shows significant planning and consideration and promises a project with interesting insights and outcomes;

“B” range grades—the prospectus shows competence on the part of the student and a capacity for undertaking independent research that is reasonably well grounded

“C” range grades—the prospectus meets the basic requirements above, providing short answers to the above, but indicating a strong need for further consideration

“D” range grades—incomplete prospectus

“F” range grades—not submitted on time, or, very haphazard thinking, poor development, etc.

Regarding bibliographies for likely sources that you will use:

This is tedious yet very simple. Course work is required to follow the citation and reference formatting as set out in the following resource:

<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/human/SUBGUIDE/pdf/turab.pdf>