SOC 300: Introduction to Sociological Research Methods
Lab 7: Observation
For Class Discussion: 03.21.13

Name: _____

Instructions: The best way to learn research is to do it. You're going to be doing at least 2 hours of observation for class discussion. Answers with space can be hand-written on this sheet, but the final question requires a typed response. You must also include your field notes which can be hand-written. So, in order to get full participation points for Monday (03.19) and Wednesday (03.21), you need to be involved with Wednesday's discussion lab and hand in this page, field notes, and a typed field reflection. A blank copy of this lab is available in the assignments section of Blackboard.

1. What setting will you be observing? *(Keep in mind that you may only observe public places for this project. What's a public place? A park, on the CTA, an eatery on campus; anywhere that people typically expect to be looked at by other people. Public bathrooms don't count!)*:

2. Briefly explain your research question, behavior focus, coding scheme, and sampling technique:

3. Briefly consider the standpoint of your subject(s) and yourself? *(Think more critically than just naming the group you'll be observing. Your answer should make reference of experiences and potential biases.)*

4. List the days and times you were in the field. *(Sure, you could make this stuff up and just tell me you did at least 2 hours of observation, but I will know based on your field notes.)*:

5. Don't forget to attach your field notes!

6. Attach a short (NO MORE than two pages) typed field reflection. It should be Times New Roman, one-inch margins, 12 point font, single-spaced. Consider the significance of your research question and any inference that can be made from your sample. Describe the setting in which you were studying. Discuss your role or perhaps the standpoint you were building your analysis around. Consider the difference(s) between coding results and reflective notes. Now, we will have your field notes and observation schedule, so *we know what you saw*, so dig into your findings a little more and *analyze what you've found*. A few minutes of observation in the field can turn into a lengthy field reflection so try to determine what is important about what you observed and how it does or does not support your research? I want quality here, not quantity.