

7.02.01

RCLS 270: Diversity and Social Justice in Recreation and Leisure Services **Self-as-Other, or “Leisure Anthropologist” Assignment** **(50 points)**

What does it feel like to sense prejudice or experience discrimination as a result of being —different? For this assignment, you need to attend an event that challenges or increases your cultural worldview, perhaps as related to current course topics: Religion, Gender and Sexuality, Race and Ethnicity, Ability, or Socio-Economic Status. You need to be an outsider to the event or experience, and need to be respectful of the people and processes you encounter. You’ll then produce a first-person reaction paper (3-5 page narrative) addressing the following:

- Describe the event in sufficient detail for a non-participant to form a Gestalt.
- Explain your rationale for selecting this event and outline any research you conducted prior to attending (i.e., internet search, informal interviews, etc...).
- Prior to your visit, what beliefs or stereotypes did you hold about this group? Where did these come from?
- How did you present yourself to the people there?
- During the event, what did you observe/experience that confirmed your beliefs or stereotypes? ...that contradicted them?
- What similarities exist between you and members of this different group?
- Describe your thoughts and feelings during and after the event.¹
- How do your experiences relate specifically with ideas from course material?
- Make at least **two** specific (use citations) and strong connections between your experience and course material.

Think of yourself as a “leisure anthropologist.” An anthropologist visits a new culture to observe and describe what goes on there. You should attempt to understand the event from the perspective of different people who are in attendance.

Take a notebook so you can record things you see, conversations you overhear, thoughts that occur to you, and comments from people with whom you speak. If you can’t take a notebook, take time to write notes immediately after the event. Make general observations at first about the “big picture”—who is here, what are they doing, etc. Think in terms of age, race, ethnicity, gender, and also in terms of social groups—are people alone or with friends or families? What are they doing while they are here? Then begin to think about the nature of this event. Who organized it and for what purpose? What does this event *mean* to different people who are in attendance? Look for ways that culture and identity are represented and validated at this event, and **relate that back to topics we’ve discussed in class.**

¹ The first half of this assignment is adapted from an assignment developed by Dr. Karen Paisley, and the second half from Drs. Diane Samdahl and Dr. Brian Kumm. Thank you all for sharing your brilliance and for creating student-centered learning environments within our field.

Before your paper is due, you share your choice for a site/activity with the instructor for approval. Please refer to the written assignment policies in the syllabus for requirements on how to structure the paper. Remember to include a cover page and a reference page with APA style citations.

Grading will be based on the following:

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| 0-25 points | Student attended the event but the paper is shallow; might primarily describe the event without including personal reflections; nothing clearly relates the event to issues and ideas from class. |
| 25-35 points | Student's discussion is primarily descriptive of the event; reflections are on target but poorly articulated; the paper does not examine or analyze the event using ideas and terms from class; the paper might be weakened by poor composition |
| 35-45 points | Student's discussion adequately uses terms and ideas from class; paper tends to be overly descriptive or emphasizes obvious issues relevant to that event rather than deeper insights; good ideas might be weakened by loose or unstructured writing style or lack of personal reflections |
| 45-50 points | Student's reflections go deeper than description and demonstrate insight into culture and diversity as they relate to that event; paper is strongly written, includes thoughtful personal reflections and in-depth engagement with course material. |