

ETHNOGRAPHIC REPORT

i. Description and Purpose

The [first] assignment of this course is an “ethnographic report” based upon your own field notes in a shopping centre of your choosing. You need to imagine that you are a man or woman from a remote village in Africa, Asia, Latin America, or the Middle East who immigrated to Canada in 2008. After learning English you began to record some of your experiences of Canadian life in a weekly journal. One of your entries deals with your first impressions of a shopping centre in which you described the people (facial features, hairstyles, clothing, makeup, body art, piercings) and their social interactions (salutations, gestures, sounds, physical contact, gender roles). In order to write this assignment you need to circle the corridors and stores of a given mall in southern Ontario for at least two hours. Spend some time on the benches and in the food court recording some of your observations. The purpose of this assignment is to recognize two elements of cross-cultural encounters: (1) that our understanding of others is filtered through our own cultural lens, and (2) that cultural styles and practices are relative in that what may appear normal to us is in fact strange for others.

ii. Important Details

Due Date, Time, and Place: To be determined (email before midnight)

Length: [XX] pages (double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman)

Sources:

- Pen, paper, and a boundless imagination