

### 3. SWRK 280 Field Assignment on Ethnographic Interviewing

Goal: Deepened understanding and empathy (not advice-giving or problem-solving)

*Conduct one ethnographic interview with a client, referring to resource material from SWRK 220 and the following guidelines:*

1. Set the stage: Set the tone with friendly conversation; state the explicit purpose and goal of the interview.
2. Express ignorance: Acknowledge lack of knowledge about client's culture (or other lived experience) and desire to learn from client.
3. Ask open-ended questions: Prepare ahead of time. Focus on client's perception of how his/her community regards problem or issue; group norms and help-seeking, problem-solving patterns. How does client relate to these patterns?
4. Follow up with open-ended questions, using cover terms: Use language frequently used by client.
5. Use descriptors: Follow up on cover terms by asking client to describe what they mean. Examples: *space questions* (physical setting of client's world); *time questions* (sequence of activities in social relationships); *actor questions* (who people are in relationships and their titles); *evaluation questions* (ask client to evaluate people or things mentioned factually); *example questions* (example of single action or event); *experience questions* (ask client to describe experiences in particular setting); *language questions: hypothetical* (role play interactive situation in client's world); *typical sentence* (ask client to take a cover term and use it in a typical way).

*Write up a summary of the interview, illustrating your use of steps 1 through 5, above. Include your feelings and reactions. Discuss with supervisor.*