

**Theater 192: Upper-Division Research Seminar
“Practice” Ethnographic Assignment**

Assignment 1: “Representing the Other” (3 pages, double-spaced)

- 1) Make arrangements to “shadow” your classmate for at least an hour this week as s/he goes about her or his daily life. Jot down notes on this person’s dialogue, actions, and interactions with others.
- 2) Follow up your “shadowing” with a brief (15-20 minute) interview. Sit down with this person and ask 2-3 open-ended questions (ex. about her or his life history, or simply the day-to-day interaction that you witnessed).
- 3) Your classmate will repeat this whole process with you (i.e. you will be studied)
- 4) Write up your findings. This should be a 2-page “introduction” to your classmate. In this write-up, you should critically interpret (rather than simply describe) the person’s interactions as you observed them (i.e. “She didn’t tip at the coffee counter. I think this means...”), as well as the replies you solicited during your interview.
- 5) The third page of the assignment should be self-reflection. Write about: a) how it felt to represent someone else; b) how it felt to be the object of representation.

***We’ll devote an hour of class next week to discussing this assignment. I may ask you to go around the room and briefly introduce your “research subject” to the rest of the class.**