Sociology Field Project  
Fall 2012  
Extra Credit (up to 20 points possible)

The purpose of this field assignment is to explore your knowledge of the sociological concepts of culture and social structure, apply it to the real world (a public place) and to discuss your findings.

1. **Select** a public place generally unfamiliar to you from the list below. It must be a place that you can observe now (past experiences are not acceptable). The public place must have routine, common, and extensive social interaction. The place must be small enough to intimately observe (or, you could subdivide a larger place into a smaller area).

2. **Visit** this place. **Download and print** the chart “What Makes a Place Great” and use it to guide your observations and analysis. Discuss sociability, uses and activities, comfort and image, and access and linkage.

3. **Add** sociological analysis on culture and social structure to complete your paper. Select at least one concept from any Section 1 Culture Lecture Notes *Important Terms*. Discuss this in detail, with textbook and lecture notes support (citations required). Then, select at least one concept from any Section 2 Social Structure Lecture Notes *Important Terms*. Discuss this in detail, with textbook support (citations required). Finally, find a similar public place at the PPS website (select “Resources” link at top of page and browse list in left column) and compare your findings. Compare, contrast and summarize your findings with a conclusion.

**Some examples of public places:** parks, transportation centers, civic centers, public markets, downtowns, campuses, squares, waterfronts. They could also include a large restaurant; a bowling alley when busy; a particular area in a hospital; an elementary school classroom; a special event (fair, festival); a team workout; a larger bar, tavern or pub. Or, choose a “deviant” place, “poverty” place, shelter, bureaucracy, or other special place. They may be found anywhere you are able to travel. Details on public places can be found on the [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org) website and reviews of public places can be found at that website (see “Great Public Spaces” in “Resources” link at top of page).

**Details on the Paper:**

**Title Page**

This separate page must include your name, title of the paper, the class day/hour, the date.

**Introduction, discussion, and conclusion (a typical 5 paragraph essay style)**

- You must explain what your purpose is and where your observations take place. This could be about half a page.
- Describe your observations using the “What Makes a Great Place” chart. This should be about 1 page.
- Discuss the relationship of the place to the cultural concept(s) that you selected. This should be about 1 page.
Discuss the relationship of the place to the social structural concept(s) that you selected. This should be about 1 page.

Compare your place with a similar place from the PPS website. Write a summary/conclusion of your findings, recommendations, and interpretations. This should be about 1 page.

Works Cited

A separate page with all works cited in proper format. This must include the textbook, the chart, and any other sources you used.

All papers must be typed. No emailed papers will be accepted. Writing errors including spelling and grammar will affect the grade. Grade is primarily based upon the quality of the sociological discussion. Late papers will be severely downgraded. Please consult with the MJC writing lab if you have need. Please ask me for any advice or help prior to your writing. Your work must be your own; plagiarism or shared work will receive no credit. Due date: Monday, December 3, 2012