Ph.D. Program in Anthropology
City University of New York
ANTH 82303: Proposal Writing
T, 2pm-4pm, Spring 2011

Prof. Jeff Maskovsky
Jmaskovsky@gc.cuny.edu
718-997-5129, Rm. 6402.10

Proposal Writing Exercise
(Prelude to a Proposal)
Please submit at the start of class on
Tuesday, February 1, 2011 (this is the first day of class).

First, please read:


If you need a refresher on field methods, please also read


Second, please answer the questions below.

Please observe the following guidelines for this exercise: 1) approach it as if it were an in-class writing assignment, and allot for yourself no more than 8 hours total (in other words, take no more than one day to do this); 2) try to be clear and thoughtful but do not worry excessively about grammar or formatting issues, or about citing sources properly; and 3) please don’t discuss your answers with anyone before you have completed the exercise.

1. What is it that you want to do in your proposed research? (Your answer should include: a) a detailed description of the subject matter of your research project; and b) to the best of your ability, the research question you plan to ask in your proposal.) (2 single-spaced pages)

2. How are you going to do it? (Your answer should include a) a description of the evidence you will need to collect to answer your research question; b) a discussion of the methods you will use to collect this evidence; and c) a plan for analyzing the evidence you will collect.) (4 single-spaced pages)

3. Why is it worth doing? (Your answer should include: a) a discussion of the literatures you will draw upon to frame your project; and b) the contributions your research will make at the level of theory. (2 single-spaced pages)

4. What worries you most about proposal writing? (1 single-spaced page)

5. Please submit a bibliography (.5 single-spaced page) and attach an updated c.v.