Group Research Project

Groups of 3-4 students will design, conduct, and report on a topic related to culture, cultural understanding, language, linguistics, etc.

1. The **design** section

(a) Each group will decide on several possible topics; your homework this week is to make a list of at least five possible topics.

(b) By our third class, your group must contact me by e-mail to introduce and explain your topic and how you will do research about your topic (polite e-mail, of course).

(c) Your e-mail will include an attachment with a detailed description of your project (correct filename, of course).

1. The **research** section

(a) You are responsible for conducting the research!

(b) You basically have four months to conduct your project ☺

(c) Your group will both hand in and orally make a preliminary report about your progress; this report will be in about our 7th class this term.

1. The **report** section – you will report on your research in **three** ways.

(a) An oral report near the end of this term (in January, 2015); this should include PowerPoint, of course.

(b) A written report (3-5 pages) in correct academic style (will be discussed in class). This must be handed in when you make your presentation in January.

(c) On the Internet: this is the fun part because you may choose how to report your results. You could, for example, make a webpage, make and upload a video to YouTube, write a blog, use Google Maps, etc. There are many possibilities!

1. Some ideas …

(a) Examine a recent trend. For example, when I was in the US this summer, I saw many, many people with **tattoos**. Another example is the AKB48 craze in Japan now. You might include a questionnaire here (hint, hint).

(b) Examine the work of one particular author (e.g., J. K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame), director (Steven Spielberg), musician (Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson), painter (Jackson Pollock), etc.

(c) Look at one particular work: the movie Avatar, the book *1Q84* by Haruki Murakami, one Pollock painting, etc.

(d) Look at one incident in history; an example is 9/11 (the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001). Another possibility is the election of Barack Obama in 2008.

(e) Check out the list of past projects in the link on our class webpage.