Use the information gained in the reading and the previous exercise to design a time allocation study. If there is another kind of behavior observation study that is better suited to your research interests, send me an email for approval to do that instead. Do not choose something similar to what we did in the last exercise, and do not use beepers. You, or your assistants, should actually watch and record behavior. You have as much funding as you need, but it should be feasible.

This does not have to take the form of a real proposal and should not be long, but you should:

1. formulate a question (approx. 1-2 sentences)
2. formulate one or more hypotheses
3. specify who you will observe
4. choose behavioral measures, with operational definitions as needed
5. select sampling and recording methods.

While there is a place for ad lib sampling and of course for informal observation, I want you to design a study that is systematic.

Be specific. For example, do not just say “record them for 10 minutes with a videocamera”. You can use a videocamera but you have to indicate how someone will actually code the information from the film (i.e., you will still have to observe the film and decide on a sampling/recording scheme, but you can do it differently if you have film to work with).

Do not describe how you will analyze your data. While you need a code that describes the behaviors you are recording, you do not need a data entry code of the sort we developed during the last class.

The syllabus says “2 pages” but that is just a rough guide. Give me all the information I would need to carry out your study, but not more than that.

Give me a call (581-4672 or 918-0762) or email if you have questions.