For now, I have decided to limit my space study on Korean America to Korean/Oriental grocery stores in Champaign-Urbana. I will begin this study by first identifying all of the locations of such stores. Thus far, I’ve got the Green Onion on Neal St, Lee’s next to IGA on Kirby, Far East on 5th St south of University, and AMKO on 1st and Springfield. Once a preliminary list is established, I will pay short visit to each place just to observe. I want to narrow the number of grocery stores down to three or four—I am looking for as much difference in terms of atmosphere, shoppers, and products available as possible. This way, I will be more focused and better able to clearly show how these grocery stores serve as ethnic and cultural spaces.

Next, I will try to interview Korean students and residents who shop at these stores to gain a better insight as to what these stores mean to them. Why do they shop there? Who do they go there with and who do they speak to while they are there? What do they buy? From the class readings, I understand that Korean America like America itself is very diverse and I will do my best get as many different perspectives in terms of age, generation, and general self-identification as possible. I’m probably not going to go too crazy and target groups as specific as Korean Counter-Strike superstars or Korean engineering students, but rather I will probably stick to looking for 1st, 1.5, and 2nd-plus generation Korean Americans to interview. In addition, I will also try to talk to talk to the store owners to see what they are trying to create with their stores.

I will also try to learn as much as possible about the significance of food in Korean culture. I really have very little knowledge of Korean food except that I eat it a couple times a month and it generally tastes good. Hopefully, I will learn a bit more from my interviewees and reading.