

Research Project Description

Instructor: Ee Lin Lee
COMM 325

COMM 325 Research Project: Assignment Description

This is a research-based project in which you will analyze the representation of and communication about the Asian cultural group as informed by our class collective academic and everyday communication. The Asian cultural group will be studied, since this assignment focuses and builds on the course reading, Prasso's (2006) *The Asian Mystique*. The overarching goal of this assignment is for you to explore racial-ethnic and/or socioeconomic representation of the cultural group and productive ways to meet the challenges of communicating interculturally with the group and with others.

This is a quarter-long research project. The structure of this assignment is progressive; you will build on each previous assignment and accumulate it into the next one. Each assignment will be critiqued and evaluated. You must earn satisfactory grade for each assignment in order to satisfactorily complete the entire research project. Late work will not be accepted. I will provide the evaluation rubric for each part of the project. The grading standard for this assignment is held to grade "A" writing output expectations (see grading rubric). In order to help you do well in each assignment, I require that you meet with a research mentor and peers to review your draft before your submission to me. Attention to details and excellent time and project management skills dictate a large part of your success in this research project. Plan accordingly, start early, and avoid procrastination.

The demonstration of critical thinking skills is crucial in this project. You need to go beyond what is obvious: ask questions that go beneath the surface of an issue, do not take any idea or argument for granted, question individual assumptions and societal norms, and consider the ethical dimensions of the topic of investigation, such as questions as who benefits and who gets hurt. The project consists of 6 main steps described below.

Step 1: Compile "pre-reading" images

Prior to delving into Prasso, you will display on Canvas 25-30 images that represent and/or depict Asian culture. Your knowledge of the culture comes from your academic experiences (e.g., previous course readings, past class discussions, etc.) and if I so assign, your everyday communication. Make sure all sources are properly labeled and cited; read course syllabus regarding academic honesty policy. You must *display* (i.e., show) your images. Do not ask me to retrieve your images by clicking on individual links and/or attachments. Please also do not ask me to post your images for you. You are responsible for finding out how to post the images on Canvas (see syllabus for campus resources).

Step 2: Conduct and write literature review

Write a literature review answering the questions that I ask (see the "Writing Guidelines" section in this document). I expect a formal, academic literature review written in a scholarly voice. A literature review is not a summary of past research studies in separate chunks; make sure you read the APA manual (6th ed.) before you begin researching and writing. Also see evaluation rubric. **You will go through at least 1 paper review conducted by a peer before submitting your work to me.** Read the "Technical Matters" section at the end of this document in order to make sure you meet all assignment criteria.

You will also include a references page. Refer to the APA (6th ed.) manual. You need to have a minimum of 4 journal articles in the field of communication, at least 3 of which were published within the last 10 years. The articles should be relevant in contents, in terms of answering the questions I posed. They are *not* works of peripheral or general importance. Include photocopies of all sources that you have cited along with your submission. Start References on a new page.

Organize and submit your work in a *pocket folder*. Please do not use any other type of folder. Write your **name and the course number** clearly on the front cover of the folder. Your submission will entail:

On the right pocket of the folder (from top to bottom),

____ Your written paper (please staple)

____ A constructive critical review conducted by a peer, preferably another participant in this project (signed and verified)

On the left pocket of the folder,

____ Sources included in your references page. Highlight information used and cited in your written paper.

I will critique your paper. You will then meet with me individually during my office hours. Complete all tasks that I instruct before you see me. Come prepared with your materials and the questions you have for me.

Step 3: Compile “post-reading” images

After reading Prasso (2006), you will display on Canvas 25-30 images that represent and/or depict Asian culture. This new set of images will not be the same as compared to those you posted in the beginning of the quarter (in Step 1), since now you have read Prasso. Your knowledge of the culture comes from Prasso and our current class discussions. Make sure all sources are properly labeled and cited; read course syllabus regarding academic honesty policy. You must *display* (i.e., show) your images. Do not ask me to retrieve your images by clicking on individual links and/or attachments. Please also do not ask me to post your images for you. You are responsible for finding out how to post the images (see syllabus for campus resources).

Step 4: Write your paper (see “Writing Guidelines”)

I will critique your paper and then you will improve on your work. Read the “Technical Matters” section at the end of this document in order to make sure you meet all assignment criteria. You will submit your completed paper (not the entire project, just the text/essay) to me for critique (see deadline in tentative schedule). You will then meet with me individually during my office hours. Complete all tasks that I instruct before you see me. Come prepared with your materials and the questions you have for me.

Step 5: Compile your entire research project

After you have obtained my critique and met with me, compile your entire research project. ***Go through at least 1 and 1 research mentor paper reviews before submitting your work to me.*** Your entire project is due on the day of your roundtable discussion (see the section below). See “Writing Guidelines” for details. Organize and submit your work in a *pocket folder*. Please do not use any other type of folder. Write your **name and the course number** clearly on the front cover of the folder. Your submission will entail:

On the right pocket of the folder (from top to bottom),

- ____ Your written paper (please staple)
- ____ A constructive critical review conducted by the research mentor for the current assignment (signed and verified)
- ____ A constructive critical review conducted by 1-2 peers for the current assignment (signed and verified)

On the left pocket of the folder (from top to bottom),

- ____ Your literature review that I critiqued and documents I wrote on (from Step 2); staple or paper clip as 1 set.
- ____ Your paper that I critiqued and documents I wrote on (from Step 4); staple or paper clip as 1 set.
- ____ Photocopies of each source cited in your current paper. Highlight citation information accordingly.

Since your research project is due at the end of the quarter, make sure you check my grading comments and associated revision deadlines, if any.

Writing Guidelines

In the following sections I detail the specific goals of this research project and the description of your tasks. In your written essay, respond to the following items. Use the task descriptions as a guide. Each paragraph, as I use in this set of guidelines, consists of 5-7 sentences of reasonable or average length. See the APA manual (p. 68) for more information regarding paragraph length. Your paper should be *not more than 8 double-spaced pages*. Adhere to the APA (6th ed.) style.

1. A paragraph of introduction. Overview the content of your paper. Include the purpose of your study. The purpose of a study in an empirical report is commonly written in a sentence.
Write within 1 paragraph.
2. Literature review. Summarize information pertaining to the Asian cultural group. Select no more than 2 of the following questions and organize your literature review in order to address those main points. You may also include other questions upon my approval in writing.
 - a. What is the history of the culture? How does the culture affect the communication among people in the group or between the group and outsiders (e.g., the dominant group)?
 - b. What are some of the cultural dimensions or cultural values of the culture? How do these variations affect the communication of the group, such as among insiders and/or with outsiders?
 - c. How are social roles or gender roles viewed in this culture?
 - d. What are some nonverbal behaviors found in this culture?
 - e. What are common stereotypes about the group? By whom? Examples? Is there any truth in the stereotypes? What are the insiders' views about those stereotypes?
 - f. How do people in the culture group perceive human behaviors, task roles, romantic relationships, familial relationships, and others?

Your literature review must be based on empirical sources. You will cite a minimum of 4 academic journal articles. Cite and reference works relevant to your main focus or foci, but not works of peripheral or general importance.

Write within 3-4 paragraphs.

3. A brief description of your data and procedures. Explain steps you performed in conducting your study. That is, what did you do to find out the results of your study? Your data set include all images displayed collectively by the class participants. Briefly describe the images collected before and after you read Prasso, your reading of Prasso, and your reflection on the chapter discussion questions.

Write within 1 paragraph.

4. Summary and analysis of the results of your observation. Summarize the knowledge your observation provided based on the images. Analyze critically the images, especially those collected after reading Prasso.

Write within 2-3 paragraphs.

5. Implications and significance of Prasso's discussion to your study and to culture and communication. In this section, you will cover the implications and significance of Prasso's discussion to your study. Clearly cite and apply 3 main arguments by Prasso. Discuss how Prasso's arguments relate to your study and critique her arguments. Answer the following questions that are applicable to your study. What is the relevance of your results to intercultural, cross-cultural, or international communication? How do your findings matter in concrete ways? How might your findings affect communication among people from the groups you studied and the groups you did not study? Among children? Among adults? Among the ethnic group(s)? Among people in the dominant culture in the U.S.? In your discussion, draw connections between your findings and literature review. For example, whether or not the representation of the culture is accurate (e.g., contradicted, confirmed, etc.) as compared to the empirical sources that you cited.

Write within 3-4 paragraphs.

Additionally, discuss and suggest possible ways that specific social groups may practice to enhance our understanding of your selected culture. Specifically, what can we do to enhance our communication with the group? For example, what can certain cultural groups do to help ensure the group's attainment of equality? Are there theoretical and practical issues that communication scholars and learners need to advance in the field? What can educators and students do? What can you do as an individual? Be specific in your discussion and cite empirical sources as needed.

Write within 3-4 paragraphs.

6. A paragraph of summary. Conclude your paper by reinforcing your main points.

Write within 1 paragraph.

7. References.

Technical Matters

1. Your paper must be typed using 12-point Times New Roman font, left aligned, with 1-inch margin on all sides (i.e., top, bottom, left, and right), and printed in a clear, readable format on white paper. Staple your final paper on the left upper corner. Do not use a printer that produces poor quality print (i.e., you need to solve the technical problem or seek help before doing the final print). All assignments submitted must reflect professionalism. Violations of these guidelines will result in point deduction (see Canvas evaluation rubric). Work that contains more than 4 typos, including references pages, will incur in ½ letter grade deduction from your final course grade; work that contains more than 7 typos, including references pages will incur in 1 full letter grade deduction from your final course grade.
2. For this particular research project, late submission will not be accepted. This includes the entire research project as I described above and/or any single document that I require you to compile for your submission. Incomplete work (e.g., submitting the final paper without one of the documents I require) will also not be accepted. Technology (i.e., computer- and/or printer-related) and transportation issues, be they personal, public, and/or the university's, are no justification for late assignments.

Assignment Submission

Submit each completed assignment by the deadline and using the submission method specified. See course syllabus for policies regarding course assignments, late assignments, make-up works and incompletes. Keep up with the tentative course schedule and class announcements shall there be any changes.