

Discussion Session Questions

Instructor: Ee Lin Lee
COMM 325

Your name: _____

COMM 325 Questions for Discussion Session #1

Clearly indicate the items to which you are responding. Answer the questions in the format stated at the beginning of the item.

Reading: Martinez, 2002: Learning to see what I was never supposed to see: Becoming Chicana in a White world

1. On p. 68, Martinez states:

There were never any conversations in which we were invited to talk, or listen to our peers talk, about the experience of encountering each other. There was never any context formally in the materials we studied in class, or informally by the way we interacted outside of class, to assist us in living through this encounter with our African American peers.

- a. **(Answer in full-sentence outline).** Glean from your undergraduate career as a student at WWU. Are there similarities and differences between Martinez's experience and yours? How? You may draw from on your learning about the subject matter in related courses (i.e., communication and/or other classes that you attended) and/or other personal experiences. Clearly provide details of your personal experiences (e.g., a training workshop you attended, student organization activities, etc.).
 - b. **(Type brief notes).** Is it necessary for undergraduate curriculum, especially communication, to include such topics? Why? Discuss at least 3 reasons.
2. **(Compose essay).** Martinez says "The idea that racial or ethnic discrimination existed in the United States was so foreign to me that I might have thought mentally unstable anyone who offered such a point of view" (p. 67). How do you react and/or relate to her statement? In your opinion, what does her point have to do with your own intercultural communication course learning?
3. **(Compose essay).** Martinez identified equality, individuality, future-centered thinking, and can-do pragmatism as central to U.S. American culture. How do these cultural ideals affect her coming to know about her Mexican American cultural heritage?
- a. How do your personal worldviews similar to and/or different from hers? Also discuss how your **worldviews, values,** and **norms** affect what you know about your own cultural heritage. Connect your discussion to Hall's chapter 2. Clearly demonstrate your understanding of the key concepts.
4. **(Type brief notes).** How is sexuality important in Martinez's process of "becoming Chicana"?
5. **(Type brief notes).** What is the relationship between Martinez's Native American and Mexican American cultural heritage? What role does each play in her "becoming a Chicana"?
6. **(Answer in full-sentence outline).** How does the American Dream figure into Martinez's process of "becoming Chicana"?

Dalton, 2012: Failing to see

7. **(Answer in full-sentence outline).** React to Dalton's book chapter. Discuss 2 main ideas that seem especially significant to you for some reason. State exactly where it came from by page and paragraph so that our class can easily turn to it during the discussion. Discuss why you found the lines significant. Did it puzzle you? Surprise you? Enlighten you? What did you react to?
8. **(Answer in full-sentence outline).** Dalton suggests that most white people tend not to think of themselves in racial terms. What does he mean when he says this? Do you agree with him? How? Why?
 - a. How does Dalton's suggestion relate to the definition of **culture** in Hall's chapter 1? Apply at least 3 main components of the definition discussed in the textbook.
9. **(Type brief notes).** Dalton reveals the invisibility of whiteness. How can something be invisible if it is everywhere?
10. **(Compose essay).** What are your impressions of a White identity? How does it relate to minority identities?
 - a. Based on your responses to the aforementioned questions, analyze if the identity you discussed is **avowal or description, and specifically if it is reactive and/or proactive ascription**. Connect your discussion to Hall's chapter 4. Clearly demonstrate your understanding of the key concepts.
11. **(Compose essay).** Why does Dalton believe it is important to study whiteness? Do you believe it is important to study whiteness? Why?
 - a. How does your discussion above relate to Hall's chapter 3 discussion about **narratives and ritual**? Clearly demonstrate your understanding of the key concepts.
12. **(Type brief notes).** On pp. 16 and 17, Dalton wrote, *While ethnicity determines culture, race determines social position. Although the members of a given ethnic group may, for example, find themselves on the bottom by virtue of their recent arrival, their lack of language or job skills, or even because of rank discrimination, that position is usually not long-term. Race and hierarchy, however, are indelibly web* (pp. 16-17). Do you think Dalton's points mirror the current diversity in the U.S. American lives? How? Give examples to support your argument.

Check your work before submission. Initial in the box for the corresponding task(s) you have accomplished.

Discussion Session Notes #1 Submission Checklist

Discussion notes (are):

	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 (i.e., good printing output) on white papers.
	Single- and double-spaced accordingly using the sample paper presented in the course Canvas as guidelines.
	Stapled on the left upper corner when submitting more than 1 page. No loose papers. No papers that are dog-eared or held together by some other mechanism that is not a staple.
	Contain less than 3 typos.

	Highlight—underline, bold, and/or italicize—concepts or theories from the textbook and/or the assigned readings, and indicate page number. <i>Failure to provide citations is plagiarism; you will receive an “F” in this course and subject to the university disciplinary action.</i>
	Fulfill requirements in answering the number and/or parts of questions.
	Indicate the items answered. Do not change item numbering.
	Show effective use of language, including clear, concise, and jargon-free sentence construction.
	Upload assignment on Canvas.
	Print and bring assignment to class.