

## Questions for Study Notes

Instructor: Ee Lin Lee  
COMM 420

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMM 420 Questions for Study Notes – Seminar #9

*Instructor's notes.*

- Graded; I will enter your scores on Canvas.  Late submission.  Partial attendance; late arrival/early departure.  
 Read; not assigned a grade. Recall that I conduct random sampling in grading 4-7 sets of seminar notes.
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Clearly indicate the items to which you are responding. Do not change or delete item numbering. Answer the questions in the format stated at the beginning of the item.

#### **Reading: Hirokawa, 1987: Communication within the Japanese business organization**

1. *(Optional)*. Prior to reading the article, list 8-10 Japanese communication styles that you have learned from communication or other related courses, and/or your personal experiences. Then, compare and contrast the points you have listed with Hirokawa's discussion. React to Hirokawa's discussion. How does his discussion complement or contradict your understanding of Japanese communication? Any information that you find puzzling, insightful, or troubling? Why?
2. *(Type brief notes)*. What are ways to be ambiguous in Japanese business communication? Discuss at least 5 tactics and support with rationale (i.e., why employees use those tactics). How are they similar to or different from your own culture and communication?
3. *(Type brief notes)*. Discuss the factors that promote openness of communication among employees in business organizations. Is the emphasis on openness similar to or different from your understanding of a U.S. business organization? How?

#### **Reading: Kelly, 2008: Applying a critical metatheoretical approach to intercultural relations**

4. *(Type brief notes)*. Differentiate CD and critical approaches to intercultural communication in the 5 areas that Kelly mentioned. Then, discuss the approach that you agree with. Why?
5. *(Type brief notes)*. Kelly wrote, "It is our participation and immersion in events that enables us to create order and meaning" (p. 207, last 4 lines of paragraph 4). React to that statement and discuss what you think about the use of personal experience in theory construction and research?
6. *(Compose essay)*. React to the section of "Taking up the White Man's Burden." 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 seminar. Discuss why you found the lines significant. Did it puzzle you? Surprise you? Enlighten you? What did you react to?
7. *(Type brief notes)*. How does Kelly's essay connect to your previous readings in this course? Specify the particular previous readings that you use for your current connection, reflection, and discussion.