



FINAL CK

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I self analyzed the types of things I was curious about before I took this class.

Most of my concern regarded blackness; what it meant to society, and what it meant to me.

This class has definitely helped me to get over myself by not being so afraid of exercising my critical thinking skills.

I learned that it's okay to be interested in broadening my awareness about race in the US.

I've also learned that it's okay to break from social norms of thinking because most of what I grew up learning about my race was an illusion anyway. It's about time I form my own opinions for myself. Plus, if I don't understand something, it's just a perfect opportunity to start a new research project for myself!



BLACKNESS

- WHAT IT IS
- WHAT MINE MEANS TO ME



BLACKNESS

- “African-American culture, also known as black culture, in the United States refers to the cultural contributions of African Americans to the culture of the United States, either as part of or distinct from American culture”

-WIKI

- I think that blackness exists all over the world, not just amongst the black American community. I think blackness is anything that stems from the thought of association with African slaves, African migrants, African decent, or African culture affecting any ounce of pop culture and society.
- For example, black people all over the world, no matter where they are from that come into contact with other races have some type of understanding between the differences in their skin tones and their cultures compared to others.
- People from other cultures besides American associate blackness with their beauty standards, like lighter, whiter skin being better. Not wanting to be too dark and look like a worker or slave. On the flip side, darker complexion is considered beautiful and looks more “tropical”, as to reference the islands or places with dominant African decent like Brazil or Dominican Republic.
- Pop culture adopts and appropriates a lot of Black culture that stems from Jazz and Hip-Hop.

- ME

MINORITIES

- WHAT IT IS
- WHAT I THINK BEING ONE MEANS
- HOW I THINK MINORITIES CONSIDER THEIR ETHNICITIES AMONGST EACH OTHER



1. “which is numerically smaller than the rest of population of the state or a part of the state,
2. which is not in a dominant position,
3. which has culture, language, religion, race etc. distinct from that of the majority of the population,
4. whose members have a will to preserve their specificity,
5. whose members are citizens of the state where they have the status of a minority, and
6. which have a long-term presence on the territory where it has lived.

- Examples of minorities are the Romani people (Gypsies) and Jews in Europe and the African Americans and Mexicans in the United States.”

-WIKI

- I think that being a minority in the US seems to be everyone that is not white though I could argue that some places (like Texas), the majority is Mexican. Whites may still be the “majority” but I do feel like I am apart of one of the biggest minority groups in Texas.
- I think that while some groups consider themselves “minorities”, I can easily see that they still have the upper hand when it comes to language, culture, and community especially when I look around to see who I sit next to in class, who’s history I learn the most in class, who I work with, who takes my order, what I see in advertisements and who I see at the grocery store as opposed to them seeing me. Therefore, there could be two sides of perceiving what a minority is and who’s really has the least amount of power.
- People assume that minorities stick together somehow and that it’s an “us against them” type of spirit, but I think that there are still very biased opinions we have of each other because we all don’t equally get to really understand one another. The stereotypes often out weigh the truth.

WHITENESS

- WHAT IT DOES
- HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT
- EVIL VS. GOOD



- “Eliminating the binary definition of whiteness — the toggle between nothingness and awfulness — is essential for a new racial vision that ethical people can share across the color line. Just as race has been reinvented over the centuries, let’s repurpose the term “abolitionist” as more than just a hashtag. The “abolition” of white privilege can be an additional component of identity (not a replacement for it), one that embeds social justice in its meaning. Even more, it unifies people of many races.” – NYTIMES- *what is whiteness?*
- Black/White binary was one of my favorite things to learn about in the CRT book. It opened my eyes to see white supremacy a step further as something that affects everyone and is not just a rivalry between blacks and whites. Whiteness, to me, is an illusionistic hierarchy that has been passed down through centuries of oppression and demonic controlling of people who are not white for the purpose of power, money, greed and to keep it that way by building an empire. Regular, working class whites as well as the rich benefit from passed down reputations of power, which is White Supremacy.
- White, fair skinned people, and white washing benefits from the special treatment that comes with being as close to white as possible, which is White Privilege. This can be used for evil, as it usually is used for their own advantages to get passed others or to be used for good, to recognize that they have a voice and can help end cruel racism, ignorant stereotypes, and help minorities achieve better opportunities for themselves.



WHITENESS

UNDERSTANDING OTHER CULTURES

- CULTURE
- PASSED DOWN TRADITIONS
- CURRICULUM



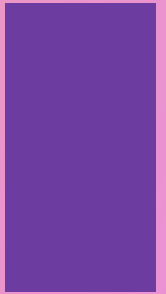
- **“Culture** is, in the words of in the words of E.B. Taylor, "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." Alternatively, in a contemporary variant, 'Culture is defined as a social domain that emphasizes the practices, discourses, and material expressions, which, over time, express the continuities and discontinuities of social meaning of a life held in common.’

-WIKI

- I love learning about other cultures because it makes me feel tiny. I want to know that there's more out there than what is presented to me in through the media.

- I understand that public school curriculum doesn't allow for much growth in learning multiple languages and encouraging traveling. Social studies, history, and English focus more on getting through the tests and not so much taking into consideration the real lives and true events that some of the stories are inspired by. We don't learn to be connected.

- I've also noticed the passing down of linguistics and traditions that schools and society fails to teach of the origins from which they come. Everyone in America does not speak “proper” English, and if they do, they get called white, if they don't their considered weird or uneducated.



UNDERSTANDING MY CULTURE

- SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS
- UNLEARNING CORRUPTION



My early childhood developed in the middle-class suburbs of Edmond Oklahoma. I went to a very nice elementary school that had really great teachers, a huge playground, decent lunch choices, and a lot of diversity between my classmates. I played with white kids, Asian, Mixed, Indian, Black, Hispanic, and even kids that spoke different languages including Sign Language. I also attended a very close-knit, family-like church that was all Black. I was aware of my race and my culture.

Once I moved to Temple, Texas in the 3rd grade, everything changed. The kids were mostly Black and Mexican and all of a sudden, I was being called “white girl” because of the way I spoke, the way I dressed, the music I listened to, and the size of my house. I was told I had “good hair” because of how my hair laid after a perm (which I never believed them because I knew deep down in my roots and my heart, my hair was happy nappy!), I was teased for being skinny, and questioned for having a butt. I remember kids not believing me when I told them both of my parents were black and analyzing my skin tone to label me as light or dark skinned (which I realized later in life that I’m neither, which is not as popular of a conversation)

As I got older, I started to question things I saw around me. I went natural, and realized that I have the power to form my own opinions about things by learning more about what has been taught to me.

As an adult and having taken this class I realize that there is no one way of being black and having a different story from traditional pop culture is not a reason to disown my blackness. I felt left out from conversation since I didn't grow up hearing stories about Black Panthers in the family or my grandparents telling me about segregation. I know my Mom's people are from down South, Louisiana, and my Dad's people are from up North, St. Louis. I'm still putting the pieces together, and that's okay.

YES, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BLACK CARD

As long as your not COLOR BLIND

Your PROUD, At least in my book.



“WE ARE ALL THE SAME” MAKES NO SENSE!

I can't stand when people say that because it erases the the fact that we are all unique because of our individual stories and individual cultures. ALL LIVES MATTER, yes. Okay, but, BLACK LIVES MATTER because society constantly tries to take our flame away. It tells us that our lives don't matter according to police brutality, popularity in appropriation and devastating histories erased in todays textbooks. We are not all the same. If we were, we would all be treated the same, all races.



RESPECT

I've recently been thinking about how I feel about the possible racism that I may face walking out of my front door. Things that people would say to me to hurt me or be racist used to get to me and I'd think about it for days, letting it fester up anger and hatred, tempting me to want to go off on somebody like a ticking bomb.

Now, I know that those people are idiots in the purest form. I know who I am and I know that my black is beautiful, and yes, black lives do matter and there's absolutely nothing wrong with standing up for that. Some things are just not worth getting worked up over like white people saying "nigga". I still don't allow everyone to call me nigga, especially if I feel they cant control their racist comments to me on multiple occasions. But, sometimes when other races try to appropriate black culture or find pleasure in bringing it up or practicing the lingo, its not because they hate black people and are racists.

A lot of the time, they don't know any better and they actually admire blackness, so much they feel connected to it and maybe wish they were black at times because of how incredibly influential it is in hip-hop, rap, R&B, and POP. Just watch how Black artists and actors portray themselves in music videos & TV, especially in late 90's, early 2000's music and numerous sitcoms. White people love that sh*t, maybe even more than we do. No wonder they want to say Nigga so bad. Being black has its perks.



UNDERSTANDING WHITE PRIVILEGE

I'm constantly reminded of white privilege everywhere I go. But I understand that I can't let it get to me. I'm not a full throttle "don't trust white folk" type, but it's a good thing to keep in mind as a way to be conscious of the way they might perceive me. It's a way of understanding different cultures and knowing how to approach them, even, (but especially) white people.



UNDERSTANDING MY OWN PRIVILEGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



I'm smart, skinny, pretty, and though I'm black, I'm mid-tone, and I speak properly in school and dealing with customer service. I'm aware that I get by on these things weather I want to admit it or not. The point is to tell my story as an artist and provoke conversations on how our minds work with society and how to transfer those abilities into something greater like better education, even as adults, erasing social constructs and building a more efficient community amongst each other. It starts with being confident in my black femininity.

BELIEVING WHAT YOU STAND FOR

I believe that before being Black, I'm a Woman, and before being a woman, I am a human being amongst trillions (or as high as numbers go) of other beings.

Still, I stand for that and how I plan to leave a mark in this lifetime for someone else to come across and be inspired.



SELF LOVE

Despite feeling alienated most of the time, behind the scary ignorance and hatred around us is self-love that comes from within. Love itself, I believe, comes from individuals loving themselves first. Spread love by knowing your self worth beyond your skin and gender.



UPLIFTING YOUTH

I've tried my best so far working with children as well as observing my little brother, and I can say I'm a bit scared for them, but at the same time, My generation is building a better future for them in the making without even realizing it. We all have the power to inspire kids for the better by teaching them the truth behind all this race and social constructs so that we don't continue to repeat ourselves.



IGNORE THE OLD FOLK

As much as I love old folk, some of them withhold information and its not my job to feel bad about my culture or to be afraid to explore and do my own thing so that I don't disappoint them. Some of the morals elders have built for us don't work, and that's okay.

I don't really mean ignore them, I just mean not to take them too seriously. Make your own decisions or they'll make them for you.



TALK ABOUT STUFF

We have to use Social Media to our advantage by talking about the issues of race.

My favorite thing about this course was the in class creative discussion we had with each other. I loved hearing every ones opinion and hearing their ideas of symbolism presented to us through visuals by the videos we watched.

YouTube sent me here. I'm pretty sure my first analysis on race started from a YouTube video. Seek conversation.



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

I learned to do me, do research, explore.





THANKYOU