

CRES 10  
Discussion 1

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## Intros

1. Lalu is the TA, film and digital media phd candidate from Turkey. *they/them*  
Focused on Sex Work, Trans communities, intersection between various groups and film.  
Attempt safe space, but like, be ready

## Discussion Notes

1. What is a safe space?

mindful of tone

Room for disagreement

room for discomfort with respecting boundaries

limits on what is practical, institutions impose limits on whether people even can feel safe.

2. Readings

Page 16 "Race is the child of Racism not the father"

- (a) Race is used to divide, it is not a feature of the natural world. It is a purely negative attribute, meant to denigrate the outsiders.
- (b) Psych studies, no geneological difference besides skin tone. Health, and other physiological metrics are the same.  
Racial groups have no scientific basis.
- (c) Historically slavery was economic and racism was the justification that allowed it to be morally acceptable.  
Racism is a tool to other, not an inevitability.  
Black people are reduced to flesh automatons, labor and value to be extracted.
- (d) Consumerism and greed is the father of racism. Capitalism creates race and through race it maintains an underclass.
- (e) Historical context. Race and Racism starting in America. Nathaniel Bacon rebellion, black slaves and white indentured servants rebelled.  
Race was then used as a tool to prevent Black and White workers from joining together on the base of class.
- (f) Why is Racism the Father?  
What came first?? Why not the mother?
- (g) Term Mother is more caring nurturing, natural.  
Father dominating, patriarchy.

End of Part 1 Pg 80. "You have to make your peace with the Chaos you cannot lie"

- (a) Interesting, opposite to another good essay.  
Other essay claims that there is no revolution without madness, you cannot make peace with injustice.  
Perhaps both are true?
- (b) Expectation that mostly White people have, that POC are complacent or resigned to their circumstances.  
For survival sake you have to play the game, you have to bend the knee. But don't forget that this is wrong and that things can be different.
- (c) Radical acceptance but not passivity It is what it is, things can be different but you are alive now.  
"Our revenge will be the laughter of our children"
- (d) Revolutionary optimism  
Attending university Do what you have to do Make the world better in ways you can.
- (e) The lie is that if you reach high enough you will be indistinguishable from being White.  
There is no escape from Race as long as you live in society. You must make your peace with that.
- (f) Something people have to learn growing up.  
Black Excellence and Anti-Black beauty standards.  
It is a losing game, you have to accept the parts of yourself that are not wrong.

- (g) Over policing  
policing the self comes from our parents. Parents who reproduce the abuses of the system in order to inoculate children against the cruelty of the world.

"It is a profound question because America understands itself as God's handiwork, but the black body is the clearest evidence that America is the work of Man"

- (a) Race is the father of racism  
This quote emphasized the man-made nature of racism.  
Race did not exist until it could serve a purpose in the machinery of imperialism.  
Essentialist stories about race serve the absolution of cruel systems.
- (b) The treatment of African Americans is one of the clearest demonstrations of the failure of America as an endeavor.  
We are often told stories of a perfect America, or at least an America which is as close to perfect as is reasonable.
- (c) Basis of slavery was religion. Christians used scripture to explain racism and slavery. God willed slavery god desires slavery, god cursed the slaves.  
America is deeply influenced by christianity. Christianity is apparent in every level of American government and laws.  
A lot of the early colonies were religious havens.  
Manifest destiny was inherited throughout colonial powers past and present.
- (d) Throughout all American history, Religion has been a massive justification for racism and bigotry.  
We still use a 2,000 year old book to justify legal and moral decisions.