**CMNS 3510 – Intercultural Communication (F20)**

**Assignments 1**

**A] Engage the Research Assignment (25%)**

In this paper, you will write a critical response (1000-1200 words) to a research article related to a topic covered in the course. This assignment will give you the opportunity to engage ideas from the course at a more complex level, inviting you to think and respond to current trends in research. To develop your critical response, you will draw on the ideas from the textbook, the class material and your own experiences and ideas.

***What research article do I select?***

* *Select the Topic* (ie. which chapter from the textbook) you want to use for this assignment. You can choose any chapter up to and including Ch. 10. (It has to be different than the one chosen for the other assignment). In selecting, pick a topic that you’d like to explore in more depth as you’ll be reading and responding to a journal article related to this topic.
* *Find an article.* Go to the Student Resources page for the textbook and select the Further Readings option. (<https://study.sagepub.com/liu3e/student-resources/further-readings>).

[**https://study.sagepub.com/liu3e/student-resources/further-readings**](https://study.sagepub.com/liu3e/student-resources/further-readings)

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Pick your chosen chapter and select one of the Further or Recommended articles to work with. The articles int eh “Further readings section” are probably a bit easier/more accessible than those in the Recommended section, but choose what you like.

***How do I write a Critical Response?***

Think of a critical response as entering a conversation with the article you’re writing about. The article will take a position on a given issue and/or make an argument about a concept or idea. You will summarize what the article is saying and then respond, considering the larger implications and limitations of the research. Structure your essay using headings and use correct APA format to refer to your chosen article.

There are three main elements:

1. Summary. Begin with a short, focused summary of the main idea/argument of the article
2. Explain the larger context or topic that the article addresses. How does it position itself and contribute to a larger debate or issue? What contribution does the article make?
3. Critical Response. Discuss the potential contributions and perhaps limitations of the research. In what ways are the arguments/ideas of the article valuable in advancing our knowledge and understanding and in what ways do you think the perspective or focus is limiting? What is the larger significance or contribution of this research?

**Structure:**

A basic structure for this essay might be:

*Introduction:*

* Basic intro to the article and its main topic.
* Thesis of your essay – what larger issue or idea does the article raise and what do you want to say about this?
* Brief map of the essay

*Body of Essay:*

* Include a short summary of the article’s main argument
* Paragraphs that outline your key points about the position/ issue or debate you’ve focused on – have a “conversation” with the article about this topic.
* Your points can be critical – showing limitations, and/or excited – showing the potential of the arguments and ideas in the article. (See note below)

*Conclusion*

* General reflection on the implications (positive/negative) of the different positions put forward about the issue or debate in the article.

**Note:**

**Here’s a resource guide for writing a critical response:** [**https://www.tru.ca/\_\_shared/assets/Critical\_Analysis\_Template30565.pdf**](https://www.tru.ca/__shared/assets/Critical_Analysis_Template30565.pdf)

**However – just remember – this is not a film review. It’s less important to write about where you like an article than it is to write about whether you think the focus/achievement of the article is significant or not. That’s really what they mean when they talk about what you like or don’t like about the article. Does it provide value to the field of study??**

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| Critical Analysis Assignment  Marking Criteria (25%) | |
| Based on 10 Point Scale:  0 Unsatisfactory.  5 Minimal Pass with little confidence in success in future related work  5.5 Pass, but with deficiencies.  6-6.5 Satisfactory but significant work required to reach outcomes.  7-7.5 Good work with solid knowledge of the intended outcomes.  8-10 Excellent professional work demonstrating superior understanding of the outcomes | |
| **Criteria** | **Points** |
| **Summary and Understanding**  Essay clearly identifies and explains key points from the source article. Scope for the critical response is well-established, with a clear sense of the issue or debate to be addressed or explored. |  |
| **Critical contexts**  A sense of the larger set of issues is well-developed. Essay achieves a sense of entering the ‘conversation’ with the article and larger context, to explore the topic. |  |
| **Critical arguments**  Essay develops a clear and effective critical commentary on the overall significance or implications of the article, moving past summary. |  |
| **Development and Organization**   * Assignment is organized and developed in a logical way that contributes to the overall understanding and effect of the argument. * Paragraphs are complete and effective in structure. * Transitions between ideas and sections help to enhance overall message |  |
| **Writing and Presentation**   * Professional, easy to read and understand * No grammatical or structural errors/features that prevent appreciation of the content. |  |
| Comments: | |