

The Searchers

Cross Cultural Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

- What are the main cultures represented in the film? What cultural stereotypes are offered?
 - Which stereotypes are overly simple, lacking depth and which are more “sophisticated stereotypes” that might actually be helpful and informative?
- What does this film indicate about American cultural values, assumptions, expectations and beliefs?
 - Is the film a representation of the U.S west regional culture in the 1800’s, or a reflection of U.S culture in the 1950’s, or both?
 - Has U.S Culture changed significantly since the making of this film?
 - Do you see the cultural values offered as *espoused* U.S values or *operant* U.S values?
- What are the core deeply held assumptions of Ethan with regard to the other cultures that are represented in the film?
 - Is he culturally sensitive or not?
 - In what way is “Uncle Ethan” representative of American cultural values?
 - To what extent do you see his attitudes as attractive, accurate or sympathetic?

Assignment

- Consider each of these questions before our next class. Be prepared to discuss them.