

Book Study #206 *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo

You have the opportunity to earn more than 3 CEUs when you take the SORLA book–study class. To earn the additional CEUs, you will need to both read the book and also complete an assignment BEFORE coming to SORLA.

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Lakeville, Tuesday, June 23, 8:30-11:30
Assignment to earn a total of 10 CEUs

Before you come to class: Purchase or borrow and read ***So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo**

Please come to our book study session prepared to share your answers to the following reflection questions. Your responses should be typed or written and will be turned in at the end of our session if you are taking it for credit.

1. Which topics in this book challenged, changed, or confirmed your beliefs, feelings, or perspectives?
2. What in this book made you uncomfortable, defensive, angry, sad, confused, heard, understood, inspired, curious, discouraged, afraid, overwhelmed...(add your own emotion)? Identify the feelings, what triggered them, and what the feelings might reveal about yourself.
3. What in this book do you most want to talk about with others, question, or reflect upon further?
4. Is there anything in this book that you felt spoke to an experience that you have had, and want others to understand better?
5. In what ways have you benefited from privilege and been able to access opportunities as a result of your privilege throughout your life?
6. In Chapter 1, "Is it really about race?," the author states: *"It is about race if a person of color thinks it is about race. It is about race if it disproportionately or differently affects people of color. It is about race if it fits into a broader pattern of events that disproportionately or differently affect people of color."* After reading the author's explanation of these points, can you think of social or political issues that many people currently believe are not about race, but actually may be? Which of the above guidelines for understanding when it is about race fits those issues?
7. In Chapter 12, "What are microaggressions?," the author lists some of the racial microaggressions that her friends of color said that they often hear. What are some of the racial microaggressions that you have encountered or witnessed? What are some that you may have perpetrated on others?
8. The final chapter, "Talking is great, but what else can I do?," discusses some actions you can take to battle systemic racism using the knowledge you've gained from this book and from your conversations on race. What are some actions you can take in your community, your schools, your workplace, and your local government? What are some local antiracism efforts in your community that you can join or support?