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**ANTH 1102**

**Attendance/Participation Questions for Week 11: Identity, Memory, and Belief Systems**

**Attendance/Participation:** Your attendance/participation will be determined by your post in the discussion board on Blackboard. Read the entire article before answering the questions. Only answer one option each covering the topic, thesis, and cultural example (aim for 250 words).

Option 1 (Chong):

Chong, Kelly H. [“What it means to be Christian: The Role of Religion in the Construction of Ethnic Identity and Boundary Among Second-Generation Korean Americans](https://login.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/login?qurl=https://www.jstor.org/stable/3711911)” in *Sociology of Religion*, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Autumn 1998), pp. 259-286).

A.(Topic) What is the main point of this article? (One sentence)

B.(Thesis) Chong uses Barth’s understanding of ethnic boundaries to explore the experiences of 2nd generation Korean Americans. She sums up her argument:

* + “first-generation church remains crucial for the second -generation members and one of the few institutions in the Korean-American community that is able to effectively provide a significant sense of belonging and group identity. And while it is clear that the church functions as a powerful instrument of legitimation for the ethnic interests of the first generation, it is important for the second generation as a vehicle of group empowerment through its capacity to confer positive value on group identity and to enable the members to challenge the negative group-image and stereotypes imposed by the larger society” (Chong 1998: 282).
* After reading the entire article, explain in your own words what the above quotation means and how it contributes to Chong’s overall thesis argument. (This should be at least 3 sentences)

C.(Cultural example) She draws on interviews with the first and second generation Korean Americans in a church in America. In a sense, she is describing an immigrant communities’ experience in America and their struggles with defining their ethnic identity within the context of a racist society. Can you describe, perhaps from your own experience, the struggles with defining ethnic identity in America? (Explain how your example relates to Chong’s article)

Option 2 (Hobsbawm):

Hobsbawm, Eric “[Introduction: Inventing Traditions](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/citytech-ebooks/reader.action?docID=1864711&ppg=7)” in The Invention of Tradition, Eds. Eric Hobsbawm, & Terence Ranger. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-14, 1983.

A.(Topic) What is the main point of this article? (One sentence)

B.(Thesis) Hobsbawm outlines examples of what he calls “invented traditions.” You might think it has always been around as a tradition, but sometimes they are more recent, and though they may draw on things from the past, they are trying to establish authenticity. At first this seems like a benign practice but later he draws our attention to how groups wishing to establish a national identity may be enforcing power, such as the construction of Nazi symbolism, socialist and Communists. He states Socialists acquired “an annual May Day without quite knowing how; National Socialist exploited such occasions with liturgical sophistication and zeal and a conscious manipulation of symbols” ( Hobsbawm 1983 8-9). He suggests there are three main themes or types of invented traditions:

“a) those establishing or symbolizing social cohesion or the membership of groups, real or artificial communities, b) those establishing or legitimizing institutions, status or relations of authority, and c) those whose main purpose was socialization, the inculcation of beliefs, value systems and conventions of behavior” (Hobsbawm 1983: 9).

After reading the entire article, explain in your own words what the above quotation means and how it contributes to Hobsbawm’s overall thesis argument about “invented traditions”. (This should be at least 3 sentences)

C.(Cultural example) This is an introductory chapter to a book, and he draws on various cultural examples to illustrate his point such as Highland traditions in Scotland, Colonial British India, the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Can you think of an “invented tradition” from your own experience and how it might have been used to assert authenticity. Is this a good or bad thing? (Explain how your example relates to the Hobsbawm article).