

## MCOM 105: Assignment & In-Class Screening

Last week all were assigned to use the PBS links on the class website which showcase that network's effort to celebrate Black History Month in February. Specifically you were assigned to listen closely to those videos and learn from reading those profiles how celebrities reacted to the discovery of their cultural roots...How some of that knowledge inspired pride and joy in some cases...and how some information caused pain and sadness in others.

All of that is part of **the media's effort to educate the public about this diverse cultural group** and what has shaped many of their opinions and reactions in American society today. For many African Americans their histories were not passed down or spoken of by subsequent generations. The realities of the slavery, reconstruction and civil rights periods in American were guarded or considered to painful to relive. Yet those powerful memories may have collectively shaped how many African Americans now feel and react to contemporary issues or concerns.

Broadening this out, it should be noted that all other cultural groups in America have their own histories filled with experiences (positive and negative), concerns, joys and pain which have directly affected their thinking and reactions today. What if we could bring those cultural & history based thoughts, feelings of pride and concerns to a table for a truly candid discussion about race, cultural pride, societal prejudice and racism in America? Maybe something could be accomplished.

Over the next few class meetings you will see if that could be possible with the screening of the 1993 documentary **THE COLOR OF FEAR**. Your assignment in class is to **TAKE LOTS OF NOTES...WRITE DOWN QUOTES** (interesting comments which struck you as insightful or powerful. After we finish watching this film, all MCOM 105 students are assigned to follow the film's lead, open up and share your candid thoughts and opinions. Next you will be given a research and writing assignment based on the film and comments from our next candid roundtable discussion. The goal this time...Put it out there, speak up and no holding back. You are assigned to speak about things we normally don't talk about in society.



## DOCUMENTARY CAST NAMES

Lee Mun Wah - Film Producer (Based in Oakland, California)

Hugh Vasquez- Younger Latino Man

Loren Moye - Younger African-American Man

Yutaka Matsumato- Japanese American Man

Victor Lewis - Outspoken African-American Man

Gordon Clay- European American who admitted to being a racist

David Christensen- Outspoken White Man from Northern California

Roberto Almanzán - Older Latino Man

David Lee - Young Chinese Man