1. To what degree is comedy used in *Eva Luna* as an instrument to convey political satire? Does Allende use comedy as a means of dealing with the pain and psychological trauma caused by state repression?
   - Eva turns the political uprisings by the guerrillas and other events into a soap opera, the stories she tells.

2. What does *Eva Luna* say about gender relations in South America and about the role that women play in societies dominated by military dictatorships? How do the women of the text break away from the traditional role of women in this patriarchal society?
   - It is interesting that Allende chooses to make Rolf’s birthland Nazi Germany – how does Rolf’s mother function in Nazi Germany?

3. How does each woman’s sexuality and reproductive capability impact her characterization in the novel? What does this mean as a whole for the novel?
   - Eva— menstrual cycle seems to be within her own control (p. 201, 284-285), relationship with Riad Halabí
   - Melisio/Mimí
   - La Señora
   - Rolf’s cousins (rosy cheeks, sweet scent, virility, aphrodisiac stew)
   - Rolf’s Aunt Burgel (woodwork improved with sexual activity)
   - Rolf’s mother (red high-heeled boots- p. 39)
   - Zulema (affair with Kamal, plumpness, whiteness, laziness, enormous and delicate plant (p. 186), decomposition)
   - Eva’s mother Consuelo (conception of Eva through healing the Indian)
   - Madrina (child had 2 heads)
   - Elvira (slept in the coffin, taught Eva to cross her leg, masculinity bad – no children)

4. How is Mimi’s sexuality portrayed? What is Allende saying about trans-sexuality?

5. After reading *Eva Luna*, can you draw an image of racial relations between Indians and non-Indians in South American nations such as Chile?
   - Indian village in Agua Santa (p. 283)
   - Eva’s father (no name- p.21)
   - Indian man in the Pearl of the Orient when Zulema kills herself (p.191)

6. What about other ethnic minorities?
   - Gangs
   - The Turk (Raid Halabí)
7. How does Allende use magical realism in her novel and how does that use contribute to our understanding of the society in which the novel is set?

8. What kind of power does television have in this society?
   - Aravena- Director of National Television (only one allowed to touch Rolf’s cousins and even respected by the military – p. 100
   - Rolf Carlé’s ability to film the guerrillas and gain the trust of Huberto Naranjo (Comandante Rogelio)

9. In what way is *Eva Luna* a picaresque novel?
   - Background of *Lazarillo de Tormes*
   - Eva’s nomadic life, characters that she meets up with