

# Unit 4: Culture

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## Journal 1/31 (2/1 B Day)

Describe the first time you went to a specific friend's house for the first time.

- What was similar and what was different from your home/family?
- Did you have to take your shoes off? What was the food like? Etc.
- Did you feel comfortable? Why or why not

Journal 2/4 (2/5 B Day)

How would you define your own culture to someone?

Explain and use examples

Journal 2/6 (2/7 B Day)

What is one subculture that you are a part of?

How does that subculture differ from the general American culture?

What does that subculture share with the general American culture?

Explain and use examples

Journal 2/8 (2/12 B Day)

Choose a subculture that you are not a part of.

How would your life be similar and different if you were a part of it?

Explain and use the 5 components of culture.

Journal 2/13 (2/14 B Day)

How is hardcore a subculture and not just a genre of music?

Explain and use examples

Journal 2/15 (2/19 B Day)

How is hip hop a subculture and not just a genre of music?

Explain and use examples

# Body Ritual Among the Nacirema

## **Read the article**

- Do not write on the article

## **In your notebook respond to the following:**

- What items or rituals stand out to you the most?  
Explain why
- Based on the rituals, what does the tribe value?  
Explain
- Does a culture like this have a place in modern society? Explain why or why not



Culture

# What is Culture?

Unlike other animals, humans are not controlled primarily by natural instincts. Humans adapt as well as change their environment.

How people deal with their environment forms their culture

## **Culture**

All the shared products of human groups



# What is Culture?

- **Material Culture**

- Physical objects that people create
- Ex: books, buildings, clothing, cars, etc.



# What is Culture?

- **Nonmaterial Culture**

- Abstract human creations
- Ex: beliefs, family patterns, ideas, language, political and economic systems, rules, work practices, music, etc.



# What is Culture?

## **Society**

- A group of interdependent people who have organized in such a way as to share a common culture and feeling of unity
- **Society** consists of people
- **Culture** consists of material and nonmaterial products that people create

# The Components of Culture

- **Technology** – Physical tools and the established rules for using them
- **Symbols** – Commonly understood gesture, word, object, sound, or design that stands for something else
- **Language** – Organization of written or spoken symbols into a standardized system
- **Values** – Shared beliefs about what is good, desirable, and proper
- **Norms** – Shared rules of conduct people follow in their relations with one another

# Norms

## **Folkways**

- Norms that describe socially acceptable behavior but do not have great moral significance attached to them
- Ex: Shake hands, don't cut in line, be on time, etc.

## **Mores**

- Norms that have great moral significance attached to them.
- Violation of such rules endangers society's well-being and stability.

## **Laws**

- Written rules of conducts enacted and enforced by the government

# Cultural Variation



# Cultural Universals

- Features common to all cultures
- George Murdock examined hundreds of cultures during the 1940s and compiled a list of over 65 cultural universals



# What are somethings that all cultures share?

- Arts and Leisure – sports, dance, decorative art, games, music
- Basic Needs – clothing, cooking, housing
- Beliefs – folklore, funeral rites, religious ritual
- Communication and Education – education, greetings, language
- Family – courtship, family feasting, kin groups, marriage
- Government and Economy – calendar, division of labor, govt., law, property rights, status, trade
- Technology – medicine, toolmaking

# Cultural Variations

**Subculture** – groups with unique cultural characteristics but do not reject all of the values and practices of the larger society.

- Include: age, gender, ethnic, religious, political, geographic, social-class, occupation, music, fandom, etc.

**Counterculture** – Subculture that rejects the major values, norms, and practices of the larger society and replaces them with new cultural patterns.

- Organized crime, Hippies(1960s), Anarchists, Neo-Nazis

# Subculture Slideshow

- Groups of 3-4
- Choose a subculture to create a slideshow presentation and present it to the class

## **Must include**

- Define the subculture
- Brief history of the subculture
- Components of Culture – Technology, Symbols, Language, Values, Norms
- Compare and contrast to the larger culture
- At least one picture per slide
- 10 slide minimum (3 slides per group member)

- Put name in small font on each slide you create

## **Assignment**

- 15 points for slideshow
- 5 points for presentation

# Subculture Slideshow

- Groups of 4-5
- Choose a subculture to create a slideshow presentation and present it to the class

## **Must include**

- Define the subculture
- Brief history of the subculture
- Components of Culture – Technology, Symbols, Language, Values, Norms
- Compare and contrast to the larger culture
- At least one picture per slide
- 10 slide minimum (2 slides per group member)

- Put name in small font on each slide you create

## **Assignment**

- 15 points for slideshow
- 5 points for presentation

# Cultural Change

# Cultural Change

Cultural Diffusion - The spread of cultural traits from one society to another

- The more contact a society has with other societies, the more traits it will borrow
- Contact through mass transportation, media, internet

- Cultural Lag – time between changes when ideas and beliefs are adapting to new material conditions



Italy 1942



Seattle 1987



- Cultural Leveling – the process in which cultures become more and more alike



# Response to Variation

- Ethnocentrism – the view of one's own culture and group as superior



# Response to Variation

- Cultural Relativism – the belief that cultures should be judged by their own standards rather than by applying the standards of another culture



# Response to Variation

- Multiculturalism - the view that cultural differences should be respected or even encouraged

- Assimilation
- New cultural identity
- Blending of culture
- One Language



- Retain culture
- Retain cultural identity
- Celebrate diversity
- Many Languages

# In your notebook: Multiculturalism

Write a paragraph for each of the following

1. Is American Culture primarily a melting pot or a salad bowl?

Explain and use examples to support a thesis

2. Culture is always changing, as that change occurs what do you think is most important: assimilation or retaining culture?

Explain and use examples to support a thesis