

# **Culture studies -2022**

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## **Class 1**

# Class outline

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- ☐ Class overview
- ☐ Attendance and grading policy
- ☐ Course topics
- ☐ Presentation requirements
- ☐ Definition and elements of culture
- ☐ Culture video



# Class overview

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- Lecture – 1 hour

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- Practical class - 1 hour

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- Teacher-guided independent study – 1 hour

# Class Assessment

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- ☐ Weekly quizzes
  - ✓ Quiz 1 – lecture
  - ✓ Quiz 2 – presentation and home assignment
- ☐ Presentations (2 per semester)
  - ✓ Class presentation
  - ✓ PPT to be submitted by weeks 7 & 14
- ☐ Midterm test (week 7)
- ☐ Final test (week 15)
- ☐ Examination test



# Presentation requirements

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# Topics to be covered in class

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- ☐ **Groups 1& 12** - Culture of ancient Egypt, Overview of the world religions
- ☐ **Groups 2 & 11** - Culture of ancient China, History of coins
- ☐ **Groups 3 & 10** - Culture of ancient Japan, Ancient stone carving
- ☐ **Groups 4 & 9** - Culture of ancient India, Early writing
- ☐ **Groups 5 & 8** – Culture of ancient Greece, Culture of the Americas
- ☐ **Groups 6 & 7** – Culture of ancient Rome & Culture of ancient Maya



# What is culture?

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**Write your own definition of culture**

# What is culture?

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- ❑ **Culture** is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.
- ❑ **Culture** is a shared model of behavior and interaction learned by socialization.



# What is culture?

- ❑ **Culture** is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs and other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.
- ❑ **Culture** embraces all the manifestations of social habits of a community, the reactions of the individual as affected by the habits of the group in which he lives, and the product of human activities as determined by these habits.

# What is culture?

- ❑ **Culture** is what makes you a stranger when you're away from home. ~ Philip Bock
- ❑ **Culture** is the collective programming of the mind distinguishing the members of one group or category of people from another. ~ Geert Hofstede



# Main elements of culture

## culture

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- ☐ Social Organization
- ☐ Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Language
- ☐ Arts and Literature
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Forms of Government
- ☐ Economic Systems

# Social Organization

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Society creates social structure by organizing its members into small units to meet basic needs

## **Family Patterns:**

- ✓ Nuclear family
- ✓ Extended family

## **Social classes:** grouping people in order of status, depending on what is important to the culture (money, job, education, ancestry, etc.)



# Customs and Traditions

## Rules of Behavior

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- ☐ Enforced ideas of right and wrong
- ☐ Often these ideas are part of the culture's written laws

# Language

## Language is a cornerstone of culture

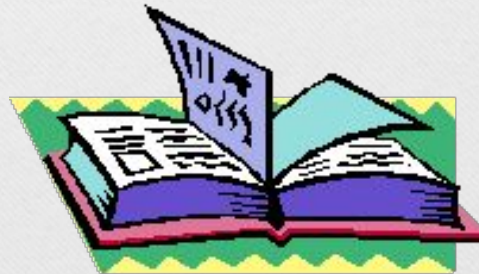
- ☐ All cultures have a spoken language (even if there are no developed forms of writing)
- ☐ People who speak the same language often share the same culture
- ☐ Many societies include a large number of people who speak different languages
- ☐ Each language can have several different dialects



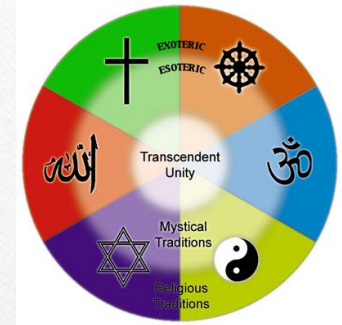
# Arts and Literature

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- ☐ Products of the human imagination
- ☐ Help us pass on the culture's basic beliefs
- ☐ Examples: fairy tales, folk tales



# Religion



- ☐ Answers basic questions about the meaning of life
- ☐ Supports values that groups of people feel are important
- ☐ Religion is often a source of conflict between cultures
- ☐ **Monotheism:** Worship one God
- ☐ **Polytheism:** Worship more than one God



# Forms of Government

- ❑ **Reasons for forming governments:** provide for the common needs, keep order within society, and protect the society from outside threats
- ❑ **Definition of government:** 1. Person/people who hold power in a society; 2. Society's laws and political institutions
- ❑ **Democracy:** people have supreme power, government acts by and with consent
- ❑ **Republic:** people choose leaders who represent them
- ❑ **Dictatorship:** ruler/group holds power by force; usually relying on military support for power

# Economic Systems

Patterns of using limited resources to satisfy wants and needs

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- ❑ **Traditional Economy:** people produce most of what they need to survive (hunting, gathering, farming, herding cattle, make own clothes/tools)
- ❑ **Market Economy:** buying and selling goods and services
- ❑ **Command Economy:** Government controls what/how goods are produced and what they cost. Individuals have little economic power
- ❑ **Mixed Economy:** Individuals make some economic decisions and the government makes others



# Conclusions

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- Culture is a complex unity
- Culture constituents can be grouped in 7 major categories
- Culture is developed within a society
- Culture is socially transmittable