

Culture studies -2022

Class 1

Class outline

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

Class overview

1

- Lecture – 1 hour

2

- Practical class - 1 hour

3

- Teacher-guided independent study – 1 hour

Class Assessment

- 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

Topics to be covered in class

- 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?

Write your own definition of culture

What is culture?

- ❑ **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

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

Social Organization

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

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

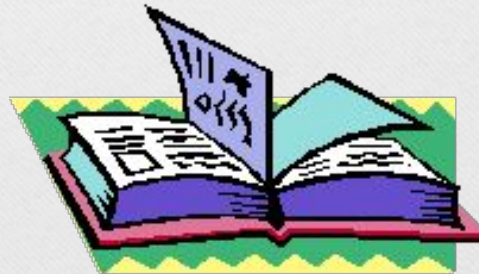
Language

Language is a cornerstone of culture

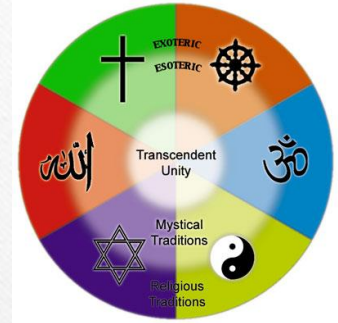
- All cultures have a spoken language (even if there are no developed forms of writing)
- People who speak the same language often share the same culture
- Many societies include a large number of people who speak different languages
- Each language can have several different dialects

Arts and Literature

- 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

- ❑ **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

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