

Unit 3: Cultural Patterns & Processes

Topic 3.1 – Introduction to Culture

1. Define culture. **The body of material traits, customs, habits, and belief systems of a society.**
2. How does culture influence society?
Culture impacts the spatial layout of society, laws, dietary preferences, how people dress, treatment of citizens, and the environmental impact caused by society.
3. Explain the difference between cultural relativism and ethnocentrism. **Cultural relativism is the practice of judging a culture by its own standards. While ethnocentrism is the practice of judging another culture by the standards of one's own culture.**

Topic 3.2- Cultural Landscapes

1. Define the cultural landscape. **Visible changes made by humans to the environment. (Buildings, crops, general land-use)**
2. What is postmodern architecture? **A reaction in architectural design, due to people becoming bored with the lack of variety in architecture. Postmodernism creates a more unique look for buildings that focus on originality, history, and local culture.**
3. How does culture impact land-use patterns of society? **It promotes different types of agriculture, uses for land, unique cultural landscapes, different types of transportation, and more. This can create a unique sense of place for a society.**
4. When looking at society how can we see cultural beliefs and identities reflected in the way society is organized and utilizes resources? **World culture promotes urbanization, larger institutions, supply chains that cross boundaries, & have complex economies. Indigenous/ ethnic cultures focus more on family structures, religion, traditions, & small scale economies.**

Topic 3.3- Cultural Patterns

1. Provide an example of how each of the following categories contribute to a sense of place.

Language	We can see the impact with language on signs, or street art. We can also see it reflected in the unique dialects and colloquialism in the day to day lives of the local people.
Religion	Religious institutions impact the cultural landscape and the daily interactions of citizens. For example Muslim countries have smaller windows to make it harder to see into homes due to privacy & gender roles. In many societies the celebration of faith can be a focal point for society with citizens from all over coming together.
Ethnicity	Different ethnic and cultural groups bring unique shops, restaurants, products, traditions, and food to a society. They also have an influence in the local architecture, example think of the sense of place you feel when you walk into a Chinatown in an American city.

2. What is the difference between centripetal and centrifugal forces? **Centripetal forces are forces that unify people and states. Centrifugal forces are forces that divide people and states.**

3. Provide an example for each of the categories below.

	Centripetal force	Centrifugal force
Language	One central language	Multiple languages being spoken inside a state may lead to communication problems
Ethnicity	Similar ethnic groups that have a strong national identity	Multiple ethnic groups with a sense of self-determination
Religion	When one religious group is in an area it can be used to create a unified culture, a sense of civic duty, and a bond between citizens across large geographic areas.	Multiple religious groups may come at odds with one another, and some states will view the devotion to a religious order over a state as unexceptional.

Topic 3.4- Types of Diffusion

1. Complete the table.

	Definition	Example
Relocation Diffusion	The trait weakens at the hearth, the number of people does not change, but the location of the trait changes	The diffusion of the Amish from the east coast of the United States to the midwest, or we could also look at the Mormons.
Expansion Diffusion	The trait remains strong at the hearth, as the number of people with the trait continues to grow larger	The spread of Christianity throughout the colonial era.
Types of Expansion Diffusion		
Contagious Diffusion	The rapid spread of an idea everywhere without regards to structures or positions of power.	When a new YouTube video goes viral spreading across the world in a matter of days.
Hierarchical Diffusion	When an idea or trait spreads through systems of structure, typically some form of power. Generally spread in a top down fashion, moving from higher forms of power to lower forms.	The spread of new fashion trends from urban areas to more rural areas, or from social media influencers to their audiences.
Stimulus Expansion	The adoption of an underlying characteristic of an idea or trait, the original idea remains but now has been modified.	McDonald's as it spread throughout the world changing their menu and store layout based on the culture of each geographic location.

Topic 3.5- Historical Causes of Diffusion

1. Define creolization. This is when two languages merge together to form a new language. Due to people originally speaking two languages as their primary languages.
2. How can globalization impact culture around the world? Globalization promotes universalizing religions, and global cultures. With advancements in the internet this has led to a furthering of the homogenization of culture, and the contagious diffusion of cultural traits/ experiences.
3. Identify one way in which colonialism, imperialism, and trade helped shape culture today. Colonialism and imperialism spread Christianity and English around the world making them one of the dominant religions and languages in the world today. Trade between colonies and their colonizers also changed dietary preferences, religious beliefs, and cultural traditions for both groups.
4. How does a connected world lead to the creation of a lingua franca? As globalization continues to reshape the world we see more ethnic languages become replaced by global languages and a common lingua franca form. As more countries use common languages that are spoken for business around the world.

Topic 3.6- Contemporary Causes of Diffusion

1. Provide an example of how each of the following categories change culture.

	Impact on culture.
Media	Highlights current trends, diffuses information, promotes global culture
Technology	Promotes modern culture, hinders indigenous & folk cultures, allows for rapid diffusion to occur.
Politics	Governments create laws that impact the way citizens live, act, and interact with each other.
Economics	Advanced economies tend to have a homogenous culture that focuses on large institutions, instead of focusing on family & religion..
Society	Over the course of time certain cultural traits become prominent in society causing the communities to adapt to the times.

Topic 3.6- Contemporary Causes of Diffusion

2. Define time-space compression. The concept that as technology, transportation, and communication methods advance and evolve the world starts to become more connected. This allows for people to interact more quickly and reduces distance decay.
3. What is indigenous culture? Original settlers of a geographic location. To be considered an indigenous culture the culture must still currently live in the geographic area.
4. Why does cultural divergence occur? Culture splits into two different cultures due to a lack of interaction. Oftentimes this is due to culture, such as geographic, linguistic, or political barriers inside a culture.
5. How does cultural convergence occur? The more often that cultures interact the more likely they are to become similar and possibly merge into one.

Topic 3.7- Diffusion of Religion and Language

1. What is the difference between universalizing religions and ethnic religions? Universalizing religions work to appeal to all people, these religions do not focus on one location or one culture. Ethnic religions focus on one group of people living in a certain place, they do not try to conform to other locations or cultures.
2. Complete the table below.

Universalizing Religions	Christianity	Islam	Buddhism	Sikhism
Place of Worship	Churches	Mosques	Pagoda	Golden Temple
Monotheistic/ Polytheistic	Monotheistic	Monotheistic	Does not have a deity	Monotheistic
Description of faith	One of the Abrahamic religions. It stems back to the teachings of Jesus. Believes that Jesus was God's son who was sent to earth to save humanity. Important religious texts are the Bible and the 10 Commandments.	Currently has two main branches, Sunni and Shia. The faith is traced back to a single founder, Muhammad. Is one of the Abrahamic religions. Believes that you should only worship Allah and no one else. Has the 5 pillars of faith to guide daily life.	Created by Sidhatra, also known as the Buddha. Believes that anyone can reach salvation and the way to achieve that is to give up worldly possessions/desire. Follows the four noble truths and the middle path.	Believes that God is the ultimate guru and that God speaks through the 10 earthly gurus. Hold themselves to a high moral standard and wear distinct items of clothing to represent parts of their faith.
Hearth	Eastern Mediterranean	Eastern Mediterranean	South Asia	Punjab region
Diffusion	Hierarchical diffusion due to Missionaries, boarding schools that forced assimilation, and colonization. Also relocation diffusion, for example the Mormons who migrated westward from New York.	Diffused through relocation and hierarchical diffusion. This was due to Arab traders and missionaries who moved throughout the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Europe.	Hierarchical diffusion due to Missionaries. Also diffused through contagious diffusion as other people interacted with the religion.	Diffused through relocation diffusion. Little diffusion happened because of the larger religions on either side.

Topic 3.7- Diffusion of Religion and Language

3. Complete the table below.

<u>Ethnic Religions</u>	Hinduism	Judaism
Place of Worship	Mandir (Hindu Temple)	Synagogues
Monotheistic/ Polytheistic	Can be both depending on how you view the religion	Monotheistic
Description of faith	No single founder. Uses the Vedas as a sacred text. Believes in Karma and has a history of being integrated into the Indian caste system.	Has three main branches, reform, orthodox, and conservative. Traditions come from the teachings of Abraham. (Another abrahamic religion!)
Hearth	South Asia	Eastern Mediterranean
Diffusion	Diffused originally through stimulus diffusion by attaching itself to traditional faiths and then slowly replaced them.	Originally diffused by relocation diffusion due to the Jewish diaspora. Today the Jewish population considers Israel to be their homeland and a Jewish state.

4. Explain the difference between a language and a dialect. A language is a system of communication that a group of people understand to have the same meaning. A dialect is regional differences in spelling, pronunciation, and vocabulary within a language.

5. Important! For language families review the language document & take quiz #2 location of language families.

Topic 3.8- Effects of Diffusion

1. Complete the table.

	Define	Example
Acculturation	The process in which people retain their original culture while also adopting aspects of the new culture.	Alejandro moved from Puerto Rico to Canada. Once there he taught his new friends how to cook Puerto Rican food.
Assimilation	The process of which people lose their original cultural traits when they join a new culture.	When Sarah moved to Spain she stopped practicing her old traditions, speaking her old language.
Syncretism	The process of two cultures, religions, or languages coming in contact with each other and the end result is a new culture.	When Christianity spread through Africa some tribes took the teachings from Christianity and infused it with their original beliefs creating a new religious view with aspects of both faiths.
Multiculturalism	When various ethnic and cultural groups coexist with one another in a society.	The United States of America. By allowing different ethnic groups to retain their own identity while still being considered an American.