

Anthropology & *Us*

Pre-Reading: pp 318

Understanding Cultures

- not simply a matter of knowing symbols or foods... although they are a PART of culture
- **Culture is WHO people are**
- there are distinct differences within a country, as well as among countries

Social Customs

→ expected and ideal behaviours of a society

Social Customs in Conflict

- There is no better way to understand how culture is learned and what beliefs your own culture has than by travelling
- ***Teeth***→ ***How much do you value what's in your mouth?***
- *pp. 321*

Technology & Canadian Culture

- our experience of cultural language is changing
- our culture influences how we use technology, what technologies we adopt/avoid, and **how** we interact with one another
- this shift has reflected on school policies

Negative effects of cell phones in schools

- distracting students in class
- giving students a means of cheating on tests
- increased cyber bullying

Positive effects of cell phones in schools

- used to do research
- collaborate with other students
- collaborate with teachers online

Should cell phones be jammed in schools?

When is it rude to answer your cell phone? pp.

What's a coffee shop for?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0R2fcxPYbzQ>

Wi-Fi and Social Interactions (Hampton & Gupta)

- 2008 study of Wi-Fi users in coffee shops
→ how public access to Wi-Fi is changing our culture
- Completed 4 months of observational study, plus unstructured exit interviews
- They found that there are 2 distinct types of Wi-Fi users ...

PLACEMAKERS

- **Placemakers**

- people who access the internet in public to create social interactions
 - use the coffee shops for social interaction and potential social encounters
 - they talk about what's on their laptops with other patrons and staff
 - they make EYE CONTACT with other people and did not “hide” behind their devices

As for the other group...

TRUE MOBILES

- **True Mobiles**
 - people who access the internet in public to specifically avoid social interactions
 - made serious efforts to avoid social interactions by using their devices as **social shields** to avoid interacting with other people

What are you? Do students use their phones as Placemakers or True Mobiles in the classroom?

Life in the Digital “Now”

Abha Dawesar

Legal Systems and Cultural Values

- All societies need a way to create social control and to deal with aggression & violence
- “Justice” takes many forms in different cultures, and changes over time

*NOTE: *We will be looking at justice systems from a sociological standpoint next week**

Cultural Variations

- **Informal Justice system** - a system of social pressure to control behaviour
 - used in many nomadic or nonhierarchical societies
 - social pressure and avoidance are enough to prevent and deal with most cases of aggression
- ***Ju'hoansi*** - in a dispute, one party will often move away to another camp for a while
 - However, as societies increase in size, they often develop more complex and formal justice systems

Restorative Justice Systems

- an approach to justice that focuses on restoring harmony and balance to the community by focusing on the needs of both the victim and the offender, instead of punishment
 - The offender publicly acknowledges the wrongs committed and repairs the harm caused by their crime, before being re-integrated
 - The community has input into the punishment

Aboriginal Sentencing Circles

- Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples investigating alternative approaches to Aboriginal Justice after a judge called in community elders to help with a case (1991)
 - *Aboriginal peoples make up only 3% of Canadian Population, but 20% of prison population*
 - *Jail time did not seem to be solving the many problems within the community, so judges started asking community to help solve problems*

Aboriginal Sentencing Circles

- In 1999, Supreme Court ruled that judges had a **duty** to consider an Aboriginal offender's background in sentencing
- Youth Criminal Justice Act 2003 - has restorative practices at its heart, such as sentencing circles

Three Principles of Sentencing Circles

1. An offence is a breach of the relationship between the offender and the community
 2. The stability of the community is dependent on healing that breach
 3. The community is better positioned to heal the breach than the formal justice system
- 15-50 people; lead by a respected community leader

Acculturation Theory

Acculturation → the meeting of two or more cultural groups and the resulting cultural changes to each group

- This theory tries to understand **how** people view themselves in terms of their ethnic identity

Acculturation Theory - 4 categories

- Assimilation → associating with the dominant culture
- Integration → accommodating both cultures
- Separation → rejecting the dominant culture
- Marginalization → relating to the culture of origin

Consider Native Canadians....

- Residential Schools = forced **assimilation**
 - The negative impacts are deep within the culture and continue to impact youth generations
 -
- Now many Aboriginal Canadians have difficulties with **integration** and accepting both cultures
 - namely because of their parent and grandparent's experiences, and subsequent gaps in cultural traditions

References:

pp. 318 - Residential Schools

pp. 320-322 - Social Customs & Technology

pp. 325-328 - Cultural Variations in Justice

pp. 343 - Acculturation Theory