Chapter 3

Culture
Our **culture** is society’s entire way of life and consists of the totality of our shared language, knowledge, material objects, and behavior. It is learned and shared and is broken down into two major components:

1. **Material Culture** refers to the physical or technological aspects of our daily lives that people use to complete tasks and accomplish goals. Everything that we use, e.g. cars, cotton candy, cookware, cologne, computers; are just a few things that we use in our surroundings to achieve the objectives in our everyday lives. We use cars as transportation, cotton candy as food, cookware to cook, cologne to smell good, and computers for almost everything.

2. **Nonmaterial Culture** consists of values, language, worldview, norms, and other symbols and also refers to ways of using material objects. Our **values** are collective conceptions about what is considered good, desirable, and proper—or what is bad, undesirable, and improper—in a particular culture. Examples of this would be how a person can value hard work, their reputation, and their faith.

**Symbols** are representations that stand for something else. *(Watch Movie 1.1)*

**Movie 1.1 What does the US flag mean to you?**

1. [https://youtu.be/eb1apzbV4DI](https://youtu.be/eb1apzbV4DI) - Video
2. **What is the main point of this video?**
3. **What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.**
4. **Can you think of any other examples of symbols that mean a lot to you? To another culture? Explain.**
The ultimate system of symbols in a given society is its **language**, which is a collection of sounds, symbols and gestures used by people to communicate to others. The letters are symbolic of the sounds that they make and are something that is usually acquired in the early years of a person’s life.

Although written and verbal expressions of language are important, researchers have uncovered that over 90% of all communication is through **nonverbal communication**, which is the use of gestures, facial expressions, tone of voice and other visual images to communicate. Everyone that regularly sends emails and text messages has had an instance where the person that you wrote to grossly misunderstood what you had written. You meant something as a joke, but they took it seriously. You said something sarcastic but they interpreted it as sincere. This experience is mostly due to the person not being able to hear the laughter in your voice when you were trying to be funny or see the sarcasm in your face.

The **Saphir-Worf Hypothesis** suggests that the words that we use affect how we interpret reality. *(Watch Movie 1.2)*

### Movie 1.2 Examples of the Saphir-Worf Hypothesis

![Video Image]

1. [https://youtu.be/tstpt_aZTqE](https://youtu.be/tstpt_aZTqE) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Can you think of any other examples of concepts that have a lot of different words associated with it? Explain

Another way of thinking of this hypothesis is with the concept of time. In the US we say that the clock “runs.” This phrase suggests that time is fleeting and that we never have enough of it and this is seen in how we organize our lives. We tend to live hectic lives because our culture dictates that we need to work but also have as much “fun” as possible.

However, not all societies treat time in the same manner. In Germany the clock “marches.” Marching suggests an orderly approach to life. In this culture, if public transportation is one or two minutes late this would be unacceptable, and people will complain. In Mexico, the clock “walks.” Walking suggests that life is much more laid back and
relaxed. It is culturally acceptable to take a siesta, or nap, in the middle of the day, while in the US we typically eliminate naps by the first grade. Even though it is scientifically proven that we are more effective and efficient when we take a nap, we are trained to believe that drinking some type of stimulant, i.e. coffee, energy drinks, to stay awake is the better option.

Another element of our non-material culture is norms, which are the conventional standards of behavior about how people behave in a given situation that are established and maintained by society. If someone breaks these rules of “space” then we will sanction them, which are the penalties and rewards for conduct concerning a social norm. (Watch Movie 1.3)

Movie 1.3 Personal Space

1. [https://youtu.be/JqlzvwaVs](https://youtu.be/JqlzvwaVs) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Can you think of any other examples of norms that we have in the US? What about other countries? Explain
Culture is something that is hard to change immediately, but gradual changes in a culture are inevitable. One reason for this is because of cultural innovation, which is the process of introducing new ideas or objects to a culture. No matter how rigid a culture may be in its traditions a discovery, which involves making known or sharing the existence of an aspect of reality that has not been noticed before, will usually adjust a culture’s daily practices and may also shift its way of thinking. When Galileo Galilei discovered that the earth was not the center of the universe, it put into question the importance of humankind and challenged the dominant religious thinking of the time. The discovery of penicillin by Alexander Fleming radically changed our life expectancy, and the increasing numbers of older people in our society has reshaped our political landscape. (Watch Movie 1.4)

Inventions, which result when existing cultural items are combined in a novel manner to create a new product, have the same ability to change our culture. The invention of the internal combustion engine by Nikolas Otto and Etienne Lenoir fundamentally changed how we travel, the carbon filament used in light bulbs by Lewis Latimer increased its longevity and made it economically viable, and the computer by Charles Babbage has changed the entire world.

Movie 1.4 How Penicillin Changed Our Culture

1. [https://youtu.be/aUuui29GQyQ](https://youtu.be/aUuui29GQyQ) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Can you think of any other examples of discoveries that have directly or indirectly changed our culture? What about inventions? Explain.
Lastly, cultures can change through diffusion, which refers to the process by which some cultural aspect of a particular group passes to another group or society. Many elements of Asian cultures have been integrated into our society like how Feng Shui, a Chinese system to harmonize people with their environments, is used in decorating. Anime, a style of Japanese cartooning, has become part of mainstream culture with shows like *Pokemon* and *Yugi-O*, while the Anime-style is even used in American cartoons such as *Teen Titans* and *the Boondocks*. (Watch Movie 1.5)

**Movie 1.5 RIP Stuart Scott**
by Strange Fruit Sociology

When new things arise, society goes through a progression of adaptation, which is the process whereby a society maintains equilibrium despite fluctuations and change. One way to adjust to the coming changes is the creation of subcultures, which are segments of society that share distinctive patterns of mores, folkways, and values that distinguish it from the broader culture. Any group that has something in front of the “American” in the US is typically considered a subculture, i.e. Irish American, Asian American, Native American, African American, because of their distinctions of food choices, religious preferences and musical tastes. However, subgroups can be based on anything such as sports, e.g. skateboarding or basketball; a hobby, e.g. knitting and coin collecting; music preferences, e.g. extreme metal and Latin jazz; or even a game, e.g. Halo and Dungeons and Dragons.

One of the main ways to distinguish one subculture from another is if they have an argot, which is a specialized language used by members of a group or subculture. Skateboarders know that an “Ollie” is a trick and not someone’s name. Basketball players know that a “pick” is to block an opponent and is not referring to a type of comb used by people with an afro. People that knit know that “pm” is a “place marker” and not a time of day. People that listen to extreme metal know that being “brutal” is a good thing. And people that play *Dungeons and Dragons* know that the vampires in *Twilight* are ridiculously overpowered and that zombies are not supposed to run like in *World War Z*. (Watch Movie 1.6)

1. [https://youtu.be/xD0Yjj7DKpA](https://youtu.be/xD0Yjj7DKpA) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Can you think of any other examples of cultural practices that have diffused into our society? Explain.
Another more specific type of subculture is a **counterculture**, which is a subculture that conspicuously and deliberately opposes certain aspects of the larger culture. People who are members of the *Flat Earth Society* deliberately go against the mainstream cultural belief that the world is round and have intriguing explanations for contradictions to this idea. The Amish are a small religious-based group that chooses to forgo advanced technology to live a “simpler” life. Vegans are countercultural because this group adamantly refuses to eat meat while the vast majority of people in the world find no problem with this behavior. In the past, both Hippie and Hip Hop cultures were considered countercultures, however currently both of these groups’ core values and beliefs have diffused into mainstream society. *(Watch Movie 1.7)*

**Movie 1.7 Subcultures versus Countercultures**

1.  [https://youtu.be/kweZ1I3mBqY](https://youtu.be/kweZ1I3mBqY) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Can you think of any other examples of concepts that have a lot of different words associated with it? Explain.

Which is a subculture that conspicuously and deliberately opposes certain aspects of the larger culture. People who are members of the *Flat Earth Society* deliberately go against the mainstream cultural belief that the world is round and have intriguing explanations for contradictions to this idea. The Amish
As people interact with different cultures, they find out relatively quickly that material culture is not as important as what meaning the material holds in a given society. Symbolic interactionists explore how meaning is more important to certain cultural beliefs and practices than the actual logic of that practice and so focus on cultural integration, which describes the process by which cultural elements become closely connected and mutually interdependent. (Watch Movie 1.8)

Functionalists argue that cultural universals, which are the common cultural features of a particular society, help maintain stability. In the US, we are taught to value freedom, equality, democracy, independence, and individuality and when we feel that these principles are threatened we unite and fight for what we believe, which was the case for many people after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Individuals who were not identified as “Muslim” were united in a way rarely seen outside of the context of war and expressed their bond with each other by putting up flags on their houses, cars and t-shirts.

Although culture is important, conflict theorists believe that culture can be used to perpetuate the privileges of certain groups by establishing a dominant ideology, a set of cultural beliefs and practices that legitimate

Movie 1.8 What do cars represent?

1. [https://youtu.be/_VZXASu8I0](https://youtu.be/_VZXASu8I0) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
existing powerful social, economic, and political interests. An example of this would be how we use ethnocentrism to judge other cultures by the standards of our culture. Although it is natural to experience culture shock, which occurs when a cultural belief, norm, situation or practice that is different than your own is suddenly noticed or interacted with and causes you to be confused or uncomfortable; ethnocentrism uses these differences to justify anything from rude behavior to systematic oppression. (Watch Movie 1.9)

Another way that people in the US have judged other cultures is how we tend to view Middle Eastern cultures. These cultures require women to dress modestly, and some even have them cover their faces, but many women in that culture state that the veil is used to make sure that a potential spouse will judge them on their character rather than their looks. We also have the tendency to believe that democracy is a superior form of government and used this along with the threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) (which were never found) as part of our rationale to invade and conquer Iraq.

Ultimately, sociologists would suggest that we arrive at a place of cultural relativism, which recognizes that each culture is unique and valid by viewing a person’s behavior from the perspective of their culture. A 13-year-old girl may be married in another culture, while here this action would be considered illegal and even immoral. Eating cows in completely normal to us, but people in India would find it sacrilegious. Most of our children would be severely beaten in other countries if they were to talk back to their parents, but we consider this normal behavior for a teenager. We consume alcohol, while many countries do not even allow it to be sold. These examples are not being used to say that you should not have values and beliefs. However, to avoid unnecessary cultural conflict it is best to understand why

Movie 1.9 Ethnocentrism and Food

1. [https://youtu.be/n_J36f_8SgE](https://youtu.be/n_J36f_8SgE) - Video
2. What is the main point of this video?
3. What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Can you think of any other examples of concepts that have a lot of different words associated with it? Explain
and how a culture has developed a particular practice rather than automatically dismissing or devaluing it. *(Watch Movie 1.10)*

**Movie 1.10 Poetry in Praxis**

*Stripper* by Joe Limer

1. [https://youtu.be/_FmPC3g6fZI](https://youtu.be/_FmPC3g6fZI) - Video

2. What is the poem about?

3. What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?

4. What do you think the poet believes is the problem?

5. Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
Chapter Vocabulary  ***parentheses indicate page number***

Culture (2)  
Material Culture (2)  
Nonmaterial Culture (2)  
Value (2)  
Symbols (2)  
Language (3)  
Nonverbal Communication (3)  
Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (3)  
Norms (4)  
Sanction (4)  
Cultural Innovation (5)  
Discovery (5)  
Inventions (5)  
Diffusion (6)  
Adaptation (6)  
Subcultures (6)  
Argot (6)  

Counter Cultures (7)  
Cultural Integration (8)  
Cultural Universals (8)  
Dominant Ideology (8)  
Ethnocentrism (9)  
Culture Shock (9)  
Cultural Relativism (9)  

Key Terms  ***need to illustrate concept with an example***

Nonverbal Communication  
Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis  
Diffusion  
Argot  
Cultural Integration  
Cultural Universals  
Ethnocentrism  

Bullet-point answer questions:

- Name three common symbols used in the United States
- What are the three concepts that create cultural innovation?

- Name three of the more common norms that you could experience at a school

- Name three things that we use to communicate in a nonverbal manner. If you use an example from another country, please state the country.

- Name three cultural elements that have diffused into the United States.

**Short answer questions:**

- Define cultural integration and give an example of how society connects non-material values to material cultural items.

- What is the difference between norms and sanctions and give an example of how these concepts work together?

- Pick a discovery OR and invention and explain how it has affected our culture.

- What is the difference between a subculture and a counter culture and give an example of both?

- What is the difference between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism and give examples of both?

**Critical thinking questions:**

- Define the sociological imagination and illustrate how your culture is a result of wider social factors.

- What is considered a dominant ideology and give an example of how this affects the culture of the United States?
Movie 1.1 What does the US flag mean to you?

On July for a 22 year old white male by the name of Bryton Mellott in Urbana Illinois decided to post a picture of himself on face book of him burning a flag look folks I know you’re already thinking that this is really serious and it is I get it because what he was protesting was he was feeling he felt that he was no longer proud an American because of the atrocities committed against people of color the atrocities committed against people in poverty people who identify as women and people in the queer community which he directly identified with as so he was actually arrested later on that day of because of a local flag desecration law that he broke about that was passed back in 2013 however what needs to be made known as that back in 1989 we actually the united states supreme court actually dictated that burning the flag was actually protected under freedom of speech and so what does that mean what is all the frustration was all the media hype about is as a sociologist is actually really easy to see that was with the excitement is about our and the anger and frustration is about is because of what the United States flag represents that is supposed to be a symbol of us as Americans and our values and there are hundreds and thousands and even millions of people who have fought for what that flight is supposed to represent myself being a veteran of the United States Navy I am one of those folks that did fight for that and there’s thousands upon thousands of people who have died for what that flag is supposed to represent so what we need to understand though as again a sociologist is that the that what that flag represents is exactly why Mr. Mellott along with any other person that would decide to burn a flag as their freedom of expression of that what Americans supposed to represent is exactly why they weren’t flag in the first place and so then now i would argue that in the end of all of this we should actually be fighting to make sure that he doesn’t get arrested we should actually fight to make sure that these laws don’t get past because honestly if we are truly Americans his freedom of speech should be protected

Movie 1.2 Examples of the Saphir-Worf Hypothesis

Okay, So we were talking about the Saphir Worf hypothesis and how the words that you use can affect your reality and how the words that you use will affect how you think about things another
way of thinking about the saphir worf hypothesis is to think about how many words that we have for the same thing mmkay so let’s think about this so something that I found out when I picked up snowboarding yes I’m middle class just let me work with this hear I picked up snowboarding and I found out almost instantaneously that there were three different types of snow now it’s not that you would call snow different just that when you talk about skiing or snowboarding there’s ideal conditions right? and so the powder would be the best type of snow to get and then there’s slush which is operational but it’s still going to leave you wet when you fall down and then there's ice and that's just a death trap and you want to stay away from that at all costs now think about this let’s take this to the next level this is going to be a little bit funny but think about hip hop and how many different words we have for weed look I'm old and I never did it by the way just in case you're wondering but just from being the hip hop dude that I am I could just chronic sticky icky oohwee dubs I could do it all day right? because for some reason smoking marijuana and hip hop are tied together we can talk later about that and about why that is and last one that I want to talk about is the united states and how many different words we have for money right? Think about that right? I could old school and say bread you can go more new school and say cheddar but cheddar came from cheese because that’s what we used to call money back in my day we used to call money cheese but then it turned into cheddar I’m sure someone’s going to come up with you know I’m chasing gouda right now and I get it but in that space we can even use other nations denominations of money and people will still in the united states know what we’re talking about you could say man I’m chasing that lira right now I’m trying to go for those pesos and people will still understand that because we in the united states really focus on money so then what I want you to think about then is what other concepts do we have in the united states what other concepts do you have in your life that you have a lot of words for also

**Movie 1.3 Personal Space**

so in the united states are standard for personal space is for someone to stand about an arm’s length away from you especially if you don’t know them very well and so what research even says is that if you know the standards of personal space in that area that you can actually tell how intimate two people are with each other just by how close to standing from each other so as someone who’s an arm’s length away right this is obviously someone who’s maybe an associate someone you don’t know very well maybe even a complete stranger alright but if they’re like elbow length away from you that’s probably a closer friend or an associate someone you know a hand’s length away means they’re probably some kind of significant other and what I want to tell you that as a sociologist is that different cultures definitely have different standards of this thing that we call personal space ours is an arm’s length away but many other cultures are very comfortable would be in very close quarters with each other other
places that I can think of to highlight are in Korea and Japan and Korea I watch Korean dramas all the time judge me if you will and there’s always the scene where the actors are getting into a bus or something like that and they're literally being jammed into the bus like sardines to the point to where after they closed the door there’s passengers that have their face up against the glass that’s how tight the situation is in Japan very similar with their with their trains that the train conductors you can see them pushing and shoving the passengers into the train and then once they barely get up in then they closed the doors quickly behind them and so look personal space is probably something that’s human dictated maybe it’s our instincts or whatever but it surely the distance that people on how from each other is definitely learned and so this will definitely depend on whether you’re from a different country a different city or different culture altogether

**Movie 1.4 How Penicillin Changed Our Culture**

so in 1928 Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin which is the antibiotic that’s largely responsible for increasing the life span of the average everyday American right when it was discovered back in 1928 the average Americans living about 60 years old give or take while nowadays it’s about 79 years old right so what are Americans doing with that extra 19 years or our lives have changed our culture has changed in order to accommodate the vast number of older people that are now with us and so now we have this thing called retirement age I mean think about that because before of penicillin someone would probably just work until they died i mean like literally until they died but now we have this thing called retirement age and because of retirement age our culture is also adjusted and adapted it created on people an entire industry that help people prepare financially for retirement alright and now we even have social groups right our culture has created social groups my church home has a social group called laughs that is an acronym which means life after 55 and as for obviously people who are 55 years and older on another thing is that an academia we have entire disciplines that are dedicated to older people studying older people in the aging process one of those are disciplines is the field of gerontology right and then I’ll look I’m going to have to tell you one of my favorite sitcoms of all time up is the golden girls and it’s about four are retired women who are living in Florida it is amazingly funny if anyone knows anything about Betty White that’s where she got her claim to fame from and so but anyway I do wonder if Alexander Fleming when he discovered penicillin would realize how much our culture would change as a result of it

**Movie 1.5 RIP Stuart Scott**

BRUCE: Cultural icon i would argue in cultural icon in Stuart Scott passed away this weekend and you know this is something that a lot of people have been talking about for I listen to sports talk all the time and so when he passed away it, this...he was literally the reason why
I started watching sports like the sports it, this...he was literally the reason why I started watching sports like the sports highlights and stuff because I really didn't pay attention to stuff like that before I would actually you know kind of watch the game or watch you know the news channel or whatever but this actually pull he actually pulled me in and for him to pass away means a lot to me and you know it and I know it means a lot to a lot of other people out there so you know, Ant do you have?

ANT: Yea, I think first of all anytime we’re talking about death I’m always careful to separate I didn’t know this person *yeah* most of us probably who would watch this probably did not know this person so on one hand it is really incredible to see the reflection from his colleagues, the fact that he was on TV you’re able to sort of get an appreciation folks who are sports you’re seeing some behind-the-scenes stories of what Stuart Scott meant and what he did in terms of bringing about representation of black males on television *yeah* but personally I think this is where Bruce and I can relate is seeing an African-American male on television in a suit or in a professional capacity yet still using the language of hip-hop and I’m careful to sort of distinguish there is a blend between black, black aesthetics, black performance art, black speech, black vernacular, and hip-hop there’s a huge blurring of the lines *yeah* but if we just limit Stuart Scott’s talking about what he did for black folks it’s sort of misses the point which is Stuart Scott would not have lasted on ESPN *haha* so, I mean the fact that he was teamed with Rich Eisen and people were connected and a lot of that has to do with sort of what hip-hop was doing and growing, how was growing in the nineteen nineties my favorite thing, and this is biased right? I’m a Sonics fan still, I am a Sonics fan, I’m still waiting for them to come back but when Gary Payton would have a highlight and Stuart Scott would say "GP are you with me?" *mmm* after saying, you know, "Welcome to the Terriodrome" quoting Public Enemy right "Can the drummer get wicked!?" *yeah* um and we know the catchphrases "Booya", "It’s cool as the other side of the pillow" but to hear him use Public Enemy, Kirk Franklin *yeah* some James... right he would use these references that were so deeply embedded in hip-hop music soul music, funk, that it was something. That for me I knew, and I knew no one else. I knew Rich Eisen didn’t know what he was saying, I knew anybody else didn’t know what they were saying my mom might haven’t even known something but the fact that I knew these references it was a connection so you saw yourself on TV and it would be foolish to think I talk the way I talk, I dress the way I dress, this is how I dress in class oftentimes right? *yeah* Because of the confidence that I can still be me, speak my language and get paid in the professional capacity and be taken seriously regardless of the vernacular that we use.

BRUCE: You know and that actually brings me, cause I’m a little bit older than Ant. Actually I’m a lot of bit older than Ant, but ha, when I first started at my job, for real, I would tell people. Let me
just be real about this, I would tell white people, older white people about my style in class and how I try to engage students and how I really don't try to sound cool like a doctor. I really just try to be in front of the class and help students realize that they think way more about sociology than what they actually acknowledge because it’s like you know, Sociology’s a discipline and so I have to help them frame their thoughts in a sociological manner, but that they think about it all the time, but then I’m telling folks like this and I’m telling them that I’m talking about you know, I’m making hip-hop references, pop culture references, but hip-hop specifically and I remembered this one older white guy. He just like looked at me and he was just like "Well, how many black people are in your class?" and I’m like "Well maybe like, out of 40, maybe like 2 or 3" *I have one* Right? Maybe 2 or 3...Well normally it is one, or none and whatnot. And then he was like "Well, don't you think you're losing the white students when you do stuff like that?" and I’m like "Oh my God...old white people just don’t get this."

ANT: And that’s what Stuart Scott did, he showed folks that yo, people are more, are much more maybe or not, but at least slightly more comfortable. Right? People deserve a little bit more credit in terms of how we relate, understand, *yeah* pick up, and communicate than advertisers would like us to think not.

BRUCE: Exactly, exactly and so when I can you know and so my record speaks for itself my classes fill all the time. All this stuff.

Blah blah blah, but what the older white people didn’t understand is that "Yes". Young white people actually understand this stuff too and that this is seen as "cool" and "hip", or whatever. And I’m not even going to be into that space because I know that I'm not cool, nor hip. He’s cool and hip I’m just this old guy trying to act cool and hip. But the idea that they can understand it, regardless of how you frame it, that they could understand it. That just bridges all of those gaps that gives people like myself and Ant licenses to go "Hey you know what, you might not like this but this is what we are, and this is how we present ourselves." And Stuart Scott amongst a lot of other people, but Stuart Scott especially in my life, he has allowed me and you know, and Ant, to really take ownership with that. And say this is who we are, and just making us feel very comfortable and so thank you for that Stuart Scott. Rest in peace.

**Movie 1.6 Texting as Argot**

I know some of you millennials are not going to believe this but there was actually a day when cell phones didn’t exist I know it’s very hard to believe. however for someone like me who lived through that I wouldn’t have ever thought that cell phones as they adjusted and adapted to the way people used them would usher in an Argo called texting right? and so texting, the Argo of texting largely consists of abbreviations of commonly used word phrases right? now there’s actually a reason why this had to happen not because necessarily because people were lazy but because when
cell phone companies first came out with texting they would actually charge you per character right? and so just to say bad would be three characters and whatnot and so they charged you per character but now they don’t do that anymore but and yet we still have this Argo of texting and so this has become so common that the Argo of texting that now even someone like myself uses it and so you know I'll use things like be right back "brb" let’s see... by the way "btw" On my way i found out that siri sorry that iPhones that if I type that in(OMW) it will actually type out completely on my way. I thought that was really cool JK just kidding Laugh out Loud LOL but for me although I know this one LMAO laugh my ass off I don't use that one very much I don’t know why I just don’t Oh my god or Oh my goodness depending on your preference in that OMG my sister she uses TTYL all the time Talk to you Later my sister in law she uses XO all the time which means hugs and kisses right? and so all of these are definitely part of the Argo even though it's mainstream it's definitely still considered an Argot

**Movie 1.7 Subcultures versus Countercultures**

alright so what’s the difference between a subculture in a counterculture when we think about subcultures one of the simplest way to think about subcultures and to think about i would back in my day we called hyphenated Americans if you were talking about someone with irish-american italian-american someone who's mexican-american african-american those would be considered subgroups subcultures in our society the reason why is because they do everything that you no speak English and go to school and do everything that people in mainstream the mainstream United States do it's just that there's a little bit of flavor added on to it rather than you know like I took people with my household rather than bread we will always have rice that’s a little bit of flavor you still eating regular food you’re still eating chicken or what meat or well in vegetarian case cheese or vegetables broccoli but the rice was something that I knew that I can expect but it was like I said subculture or it was a little bit different than the mainstream culture another one would be like music genres my son I know you're going to trip out about this I have a 22 year old son of and he is a he plays death metal you guys bass for death metal band and there’s a way of talking a way of interacting a way of dressing in that culture where you can let people know immediately what kind of music you listen to that they look at the band shirts and it’s not just having a band shirt to specific bands that represent specific genres and that you are speaking each other’s language another subculture would be like on a basketball court you’re doing everything that people in the United States would do but there's a way of dressing and I hope you get picked earlier than way of dressing that will help you not get picked earlier in regards to you know just playing a pickup basketball game all countercultures on the other hand countercultures are generally going considered weird like weird like whoa like it’s going to push it back a little bit like hate groups whether it be a clue Klux Klan would be the new black panthers
whether it be the nation Islam whether it be with skinheads whatever those are going to be groups that are going to be considered counter-cultural they're going against what we think of as quality in the United States and that's something that people in the United States tend to value right another counter culture would be like a markets well I mean that's my very definition that their counter culture because we're going against the government while last one is the distant one is a fun one to be as that is called they're called fregans and these are people literally this is what they do they literally will go and go to my good dumpsters of shopping centers and pick out the food because they are they are getting going against the excesses of capitalism and how capitalism causes people to throw away things and they're like they don't like that and so they picked all the garbage all the food out of the supermarket’s trash cans and take it home and eat it and so that would be a little bit of an example of subculture vs counterculture

**Movie 1.8 What do cars represent?**

so the talk about cultural integration I wanted to focus on our material culture of cars right and so that what we see that is that cultural integration will help us connect our non-material values to these material items especially like I said as it pertains to cars so then what are some of our values that we have culturally integrated into cars one of them is definitely the sense that we have for independence and so that when we probably don’t think about that too many times except for when our car breaks down when our car breaks down we are woefully reminded how dependent we are on other things like public transportation or on other people like our family or friends to get us around and so are other things that are connected other values that we have that and so other things that are connected other values that we have that are connected to cars would also be a social status trucks you know they tend to be connected to the working class whether rightfully or wrongfully they tend to be connected to the working class of BMWs and Mercedes Benz they’re connected to upper-middle class while our cars that I barely even know how to pronounce are connected to the wealthy to the wealthy classes like Lamborghini’s and the Bugatti’s and only reason why I know any of those names because of rap videos but anyway the other thing the last thing I want to talk about that’s connected the value that we have this connected two cars is also this thing that we call gender right because if you think about certain cars certain cars are definitely supposed to represent masculinity like a truck that’s raised it has big wheels on is definitely something that gives you more much more of a masculine sense of what a Fiat little Fiat would definitely subscribe something to connect to something more feminine now please don’t misunderstand anybody could ride these cars males and females alike anybody can ride these cars but our cultural how we have culturally integrated certain values into our cars of what we drive has definitely affected what we will buy and when we will buy it and who buy it for
Ethnocentrism and Food

so every year during the summer solstice residents of Yulin which is the city and southeast China they get together in a festival organized by dog meat traders in order to try to boost the sale of dog meat right now look I know this is difficult to talk about because in the United States I mean honestly we think about dogs almost as human and so to talk about eating dogs that is something very closely akin to cannibalism I mean I can’t think of it any other way and look I’m a dog owner myself I love my dog and he’s in the family photos and things like that and so I get this however we have to understand that if you attack and demonize an entire group of people for honestly a relatively benign cultural practice and this is definitely an example of ethnocentrism now look I’m not trying to say whether it’s right or wrong to eat dog but what I am saying is that if you look at this within the lens of cultural relativism of you shouldn’t perceive these acts as evil or consider a civilization less civilized because of these practices because if we think about it think about all the countries that wouldn’t appreciate the things that we eat as Americans every day and so a place like India you know they considered a cow sacred and so therefore when we you know what we eat beef this is sacrilege to them and you know in our biggest fast-food chains sells beef by the ton right and so the places like Israel pakistan-afghanistan other places in the middle east of that we they consider a pork of and pigs to be filthy animals and that their unfit for human consumption and yet we say bacon makes everything taste better as a look as a sociologist then I want to make sure that you understand we’re not saying that everyone needs to participate in other people’s cultural practices but we will say though is that believing that some group is culturally inferior to yours are is where all discrimination begins and the worst-case scenarios is where genocide can even happen think about it

Poetry in Praxis

Stripper by Joe Limer

This is the story of boy meets girl and it might be a love poem, but it’s definitely not a stripper poem. I repeat it’s not a stripper poem. So I was at this strip club and that’s when I saw her. She was a 5 foot greeting card in the most amazing envelope I’ve ever seen. I was this close this stage before my fantasies, where dreamed her into being, turning my body into a T-Pain video burning images of grinding hips in my lap like she's trying to put out a fire. Extinguishing places where puberty calls 911, and when she's done, she makes dirty feel like a baptism. She turns desire into lust filled promises, but her legs wrap around the pole like crossed fingers behind backs, her attraction is a lesson using smoke and mirrors, these mirrors create the image of concocted hypocrisy like Fox News, and falling in love with a stripper. And I know people are going to laugh, or think I'm blind. That I can't see behind the silhouette of raw desire, as if my common sense would drown in the ocean of her smile. Friction, firing off emotion with each dollar tease. Knowing she would please me so hard
that it would make my dreams cottonmouth plantations. But there is a message in the bottleneck of her hips that whispers to my guilt and tells a never-ending story. I look closely and I see the diamonds in her eyes have been hardened by the Taylor Made civil wars fought in the pupils in her glance. Her heels hit the floor and it sounds like she’s saying "Help me" in Morris code and I know that she is more statement than spectacle, but I confess. I never appreciate her for the beautiful woman that she is. Like she’s got this tattoo on her right calf of a caged bird, an eagle feather behind her ear, and a silver ring on her left hand to remind her that some broken promises are like bullet wounds that can never be removed. She’s got a scar on her left wrist that screams "Don't ask me about this all you need to know is that I’m still here". She tells me that her favorite color is brown because Brown is the color of humanity touched by the sun, and she hates karaoke because she can’t sing. In fact her voice is a bit irritating, but it sounds like the Rosetta Stone for struggle and I want to save her. I want to tell her that knowing her is like capturing hope in a jar, like grabbing water from the ocean, all that's left are reminders that she existed, burnt embers of a cigarette trapped in the cancer of could have beens. She's here, away from the bright lights of the city, the marquee outside says her name. We call her Justice, we call her Liberty, we call her Peace, but her name is Freedom. Have you seen her? Freedom performs nightly from 11 to 3 AM because her stars can only be seen at night. Please come grab a seat and see Freedom. The fantasy that makes screaming your name whispering irony at border patrol checkpoints. Freedom, the girl who grew up feeling the plastic pressure being molded into Disney princesses. Freedom puts up with our abuse because she doesn’t believe anyone else will love her. When Freedom takes the fall we’re the ones who wear the bruises. When Freedom is arrested, we’re the ones who wear the handcuffs and when Freedom strips for an audience we become stripped of a promise in on our humanity we could never keep. Freedom wants to show us one essential truth, she doesn’t need saving, we do.