Culture

Chapter Three
Enculturation

- ...the immersion in a culture to the point where that particular design for living seems “only natural.”

- Anthropology- The process of social interaction through which people learn their culture.
Culture

- Doob- ...consists of all the human-made products associated with a society. (Material and Nonmaterial)

- ...the total, generally organized way of life, including values, norms, institutions and artifacts, that is unique to a given people and that is passed on from generation to generation.
Culture consists of the way of life of society.

Society consists of the interacting people who share a culture.
Components of Culture

- **Beliefs**-
  - Doob—...a statement about reality that people accept as true.
  - ...interpretations of the past.
  - ...explanations of the present.
  - ...predictions of the future.
Components of Culture

- Values-
  - Doob- ...is a general conviction about what is good or bad, right or wrong, appropriate or inappropriate. (Values are abstract)
  - ...an idea shared by the people in a society about what is good and bad, right and wrong, desirable and undesirable.
Components of Culture

- Norms-
- Doob—...is a standard of desirable behavior.
- ...are expectations of how people are supposed to act, think, or feel in specific situations.
Types of Norms

- Folkways-
  - popular habits and traditions.
  - a way of doing things that is customary, but not insisted upon, and not involving any severe sanctions for those who deviate from the expected behavior.
Types of Norms

- Mores-
  ...folkways which are held by common consent to be conducive to the welfare of society.

- ...norms which are precisely formulated, but not officially sanctioned.
Types of Norms

- Laws-
  - ... that which must be obeyed and followed by citizens subject to sanctions or other legal consequences.
Components of Culture

- Symbols-
  - anything that meaningfully represents something else. (Arbitrary-no inherent connection, just social agreement.)

- Signs-
  - are nonarbitrary indicators of the things they signal, the things they are a sign of.
Components of Culture

- Language-

- Doob-...a system of symbolic communication that uses words, which are sound patterns that have standardized meanings.

- ...our most important set of symbols, through language, the ideas, values and norms of our culture find their most complete expression.
Components of Culture

- Sanctions -

- .....any provision for regulating a norm; more specifically, a reward or penalty, as appropriate for approved or disapproved behavior.
Cultural Universals-

...traits and behavioral patterns believed to exist in all cultures.

...cooking, family, feasting, folklore, funeral rites, gift-giving, greeting forms, incest taboos, medicine, music, sport, toilet-training, and toolmaking.
Ethnocentrism-

Doob...the automatic tendency to evaluate other cultures by the standards of one’s own, ultimately finding them inferior.

...the tendency to evaluate other cultures in terms of one’s own culture, to consider one’s own culture right and that of others wrong.
Cultural Relativity-

Doob—...the principle that a culture can be effectively evaluated only when analyzed by its own standards and not by those of any other culture.

...the principle that every culture must be judged in its own terms.
Subculture -

...a group of people within a society that have a style of living that includes features of the dominant culture and cultural elements not found in the dominant culture
Counterculture -

Doob -...is a subculture whose members consciously and often proudly reject some of the most important cultural standards of the mainstream society.

...a subculture which challenges the values, beliefs, institutions or other aspects of the dominant culture.