



ANTH 1000W Peoples and Cultures of World

Matthew Longcore, M.A.

UConn Stamford

Spring 2020



eHRAF World Cultures Research Papers

To meet the writing requirement for the course, students are expected to submit a research paper using eHRAF. The paper should address a specific cultural behavior or topic of their choice (e.g. romantic kissing) and a related research question (e.g. is romantic kissing a cultural universal?).

Students use data from eHRAF World Cultures to answer the question and must select any three cultures to research their topic. The assignment provides students with sample topics, tips for selecting a research question, the step-by-step process for the development of the research paper, and guidelines for writing the paper. The completed assignment should comprise a minimum of 9 pages, double-spaced, including a title page, and references cited.

STUDENT	Aileen Bautista
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Medicine in the Zapotec, Somali and Central Thai Cultures

Remarks on Similarities

All three cultures presented above shared a common treatment of illnesses, and that was to go through **herbal medication or another alternative** before going to a physician ... [they] **appreciate nature** and are thankful for providing them with the resources needed in order to survive. On another note, they also shared the **belief of supernatural forces** as a sickness or disease, and although they were not the same they all recognized that it is a form of evil coming at them and the proper medication was needed in order to relieve them of that evil that was haunting them. Finally, it was also recognized that these people **passed down some or all knowledge** they knew about their medicines in order to help future generations.

STUDENT	Aileen Bautista
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Medicine in the Zapotec, Somali and Central Thai Cultures

Remarks on Differences

Apart from herbal medication, the Zapotec, Somali, and Central Thai cultures had **additional medical services of their own** that they believed helped with illness, and did not share with the other cultures. For instance, in the Somali culture, their livestock was an essential part to their beliefs in curing what they called a disease. Whereas, the Zapotec culture might say they were performing a ritual for a supernatural disease to go away, and not necessarily eating part of an animal in order to be cured. While the Central Thai culture does little to nothing with animals in respect to their medications.

STUDENT	Oliver Belfort
MAJOR	Computer Science & Engineering
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Does dance have the same significance and reasoning cross-culturally?

Dance, as defined by eHRAF, is “the art of rhythmic and patterned movements of the body, usually accompanied by music”. It can be classified and described by its “choreography”, “repertoire of movements”, and/or “historical period or place of origin”. A cultural universal, it is one out of numerous phenomena found in practically the majority of human cultures on the planet, both past and present, existing as far back as 3300 B.C., as seen in the Egyptian tomb paintings portraying dancing figures and in the 9,000-year old paintings at the Rock Shelters in Bhimbetka, India. From religion and spirituality, to artistic expression, performance, exercise and even mere self-entertainment, there are a vast number of reasons why humans dance. **Although it is an activity that most humans have in common, the significance and reasoning behind dance is not the same cross-culturally.**

STUDENT	Oliver Belfort
MAJOR	Computer Science & Engineering
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Does dance have the same significance and reasoning cross-culturally?

Examining the cultures of the Dogon, the Cajun, and the Comanche, it is quite evident that the significance and reasoning behind dance isn't the same cross-culturally. For the Dogon tribe, dancing performed in the Dama rituals is a funerary rite, used to honor and guide the souls of their deceased to their final resting place, as well as for the male dancers, the only way to transition into being a man. Furthermore, it is a form of protection and a method of atonement. To the Cajun people, dance is clearly a pastime, in addition to a method for socialization and courting, and a means of leisure, even in the midst of hardship. Last but not least, for the Comanche, historically specific war dances represented their fierceness as a tribe and victories in battle, but now in the current age, dances associated with war are now used for competitive performances at pow wows, and to demonstrate cultural pride.

STUDENT	Eyline Cabrera
MAJOR	Business Administration
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	Is Monogamy A Cultural Universal?

Monogamy is a culturally universal practice, which means that is found in all cultures of the world, but certain cultures also allow polygamy and polyandry to be practiced. Polygamy is permitted in some cultures of the world; mainly when the wife is not able to have kids, the husband is allowed to be polygamous ... the following cultures were researched -- Tibetans in China, Palestinians in the Middle East, and Ganda in Africa. These three cultures practice monogamy in different ways, and for many different reasons.

STUDENT	Eyline Cabrera
MAJOR	Business Administration
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	Is Monogamy A Cultural Universal?

In the **Tibetan culture** monogamy is very common, but polygamy and polyandry are also found across the Tibetans. Polygamy is mainly practiced only by wealthy men who can afford having two wives, while on the other hand polyandry happens when a woman marries a man and she brings along as joint husbands all of his brothers. **Palestinians in the Middle East** practice monogamy because they believe polygamy is unacceptable in their society, but there are cases in which the woman agrees for the husband to have another spouse. In **Ganda culture in Africa**, only rich men have many wives while common men can only afford one. In all cultures monogamy is practiced, but in some cultures sometimes men believe they have the power and authority of being polygamous.

STUDENT	Anna Chouprinova
MAJOR	Pre-Sport Management
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	The Traditional History of Cultures

In his extensive research **Murdock**, an anthropologist, came up with a list of cultural universals that entailed trade, religious ceremonies, marriage, herbal medicines, traditional history, among others. The various cultural universals are not the same for all cultures, but instead, they vary from one culture to the other even though they are universal. Different authors have published books, journals, and articles explaining the traditional history of almost each of the world's cultures. These authors often gave importance to these histories by discussing, revealing, and even using illustrations on important events of their research (Holleman et al., pp. 354-96). The main goal of this research is to explain the traditional history of three cultures, each of which is highlighted in **eHRAF World Cultures**, covering all aspects of the cultural and social life of different cultures of the world. The traditional history of cultures researched are **the Shona** people of Zimbabwe, **the Maasai** who are mainly found in Kenya and Tanzania, and **the Asante** from Ghana.

STUDENT	Anna Chouprinova
MAJOR	Pre-Sport Management
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	The Traditional History of Cultures

There was also the similarity in these cultures since each of them lived in clans, which were mainly regarded as the basic social unit. These clans acted as a symbol of unity since they united the entire community. Social ceremonies such as marriage and circumcision were also evident amongst them. Each of these cultures had a standing army which was recognized as an important institution to protect the community, maintain peace, engaging in wars with other communities as well as protecting the communal boundaries. There also were symbols of national unity that were mainly to cement the unity of the entire community. Despite having similarities, the cultures had contrasts in some areas, mainly in their political organization. **The Maasai had a decentralized form of government, which was headed by a council of elders, while the Shona and the Asante had a centralized one where leadership was matrilineal.**

STUDENT	Jennifer Conde
MAJOR	Financial Management
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Coffee Ceremonies and Rituals

In each culture, there are skills that must be learned for the proper preparation of the drink. In Ethiopia, a young woman is usually the one to carry out the ceremony. The person must know how to roast the beans evenly and so that they do not burn. When serving the coffee, it is poured from about a foot above the cups in a steady stream. Apart from skill, the person must know each step of the coffee ceremony. In Italy, the barista must have the proper skill set and knowledge to make espresso and espresso based drinks. Knowing how to steam milk and the ratios of foam are what separate a cappuccino from a latte. Latte art atop a drink makes it even more aesthetic and special ... making Turkish coffee requires patience, it is the oldest form of gourmet coffee and therefore a long history to perfect the method of boiling and reboiling. Though different, one must practice and master the skills to make the optimal cup of coffee for each culture.

STUDENT	Jennifer Conde
MAJOR	Financial Management
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Coffee Ceremonies and Rituals

Some **differences** among each culture's coffee rituals are what is consumed alongside. In Ethiopia, popcorn is eaten throughout the ceremony. In Turkey, water is served alongside the coffee. In Italy, when drinking a cappuccino for breakfast a pastry such as *pain au chocolat* is eaten. Also, Ethiopians drink their coffee before each meal while Italians have coffee after each meal.

While there are many differences to coffee culture in each country, there are also many **similarities** that make the essential experience of drinking coffee the same. It can be concluded that drinking coffee and socializing is a tradition shared by all cultures. The rituals and methods of preparation are different, however, elements such as grinding coffee beans fresh is shared among all three cultures. Taking time out of the day to appreciate coffee and enjoy the company of others is a cultural universal.

STUDENT	Christina Hardacre
MAJOR	History
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Beauty Beyond the Invisible: A Cross Cultural Reference of the Native American Use of the Pleiades Constellation

The importance of viewing winter constellations is crucial to the frost period of the American Northeast. An early sowing season can cause the crops to fail for the next harvest. Without crops, the Iroquois people cannot survive. The precise setting of the Pleiades during the last of the frost period ensures that the crops will grow and the people will safely prevail. Iroquois culture and identity relied heavily on the night sky. Iroquois members believed, "When the moon's face was hidden in an eclipse, she was sick or angry. They believed the Milkyway was the road of souls and the Pleiades was a party of dancers." **Folklore and myths developed from the celestial Heavens. The folklore about the Pleiades is a sad story of loss.**

STUDENT	Christina Hardacre
MAJOR	History
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Beauty Beyond the Invisible: A Cross Cultural Reference of the Native American Use of the Pleiades Constellation

In the ethnography, "The Navajo Mountain Community: Social Organization and Kinship Terminology," author Mary Shepardson explains how Navajo women from the past and into the present day give birth to children in their own homes. The hospitals are hours away from the Navajo Reservation, therefore when a woman is in labor and ready to give birth, a shaman visits the home. In one example, Shepardson explains the story of a Navajo woman named Cynthia who was in labor. The medicine man or shaman came to help deliver the baby. Cynthia was in labor for eight hours and wondered when her baby would be brought into this world. **The shaman looked into the night sky and exclaimed, 'When the Pleiades are there (pointing to a position in the sky) the baby will come.' He was about an hour off.**

STUDENT	Mary Holmes-Small
MAJOR	ACES Exploratory
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Art Across Cultures: The Meaning of Tattoos

The art of tattooing also plays a role in attracting the opposite sex. Maori men believed "the decorations were regarded as enhancing their features and making them more attractive to the opposite sex." Maori women also practiced face tattooing because they also believed it was a decorative feature that made them more attractive. However, unlike men, the tattoos "tended to be concentrated around the nose and lips" to bring attention to the women's most attractive features, hence making her more desirable. The art of tattooing to become desirable is not uncommon to other tribes.

STUDENT	Mary Holmes-Small
MAJOR	ACES Exploratory
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Art Across Cultures: The Meaning of Tattoos

Each region's reasoning to practice the art of tattooing differs across the world. However, there are more similarities than there are differences in the cultures highlighted in this paper. Tattooing can be used for many different practices such as symbolism, proof of maturity, dignification, religious rituals, and sexual attraction and desirability. The tattooing practices of these cultures are evidence against the theories that women were only subjected to tattooing in a way to identify them as prostitutes or concubines. **Tattooing is an ancient skill that holds deep-rooted significance in the cultures that were examined.**

STUDENT	Gerson Jacinto
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	How Did Indigenous Life in The Americas Change?

Aztecs were large groups of nomadic and semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers. A nomad is a member of a community without fixed habitation which regularly moves to and from some areas. These various groups of Aztecs started from northern Mexico and settled all the way down to what the border of Mexico and Guatemala is currently. **The Aztecs were composed of various subcultures that united together.**

STUDENT	Gerson Jacinto
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	How Did Indigenous Life in The Americas Change?

According to the [eHRAF Culture Summary: Maya](#) “The term "Maya" is of indeterminable antiquity and today is still used by many in the Yucatán peninsula of México to refer to the language and the people of the same name. For self-identification, other terms used are "Mayor," which refers to a speaker of Maya; mestizo, which in Spanish means "mixed people"; or "Masehual," an adapted Nahuatl word that is used more in the traditional Maya Zone of Quintana Roo to mean "indigenous," or "legitimate" Mayas.” Maya culture is very similar to Aztec culture as a lot of Aztec migrants later turned into Mayans. History.com says that “The Maya civilization was one of the most dominant indigenous societies of [Mesoamerica](#) (a term used to describe Mexico and Central America before the 16th-century Spanish conquest)” The dense tropical population made it a bit harder for the Spaniards to control the whole area.

STUDENT	Natalia Jankowski
MAJOR	English/Biological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Marriage, Courting, Affection, and their Impact on Different Cultures

Humans are inherently social creatures, with a lot of our basic necessities and mental health depending on other people. Social interactions with other people can range from greeting each other with a good handshake, to hugging someone, or if you are more intimate with the person, kiss them or even marry them. Kissing, as well as other previously stated forms of intimacy, in western culture is seen as a sign of affection or way to become more intimate with another person. However, although marriage is a cultural universal, what a lot of people seem to forget is that small gestures within marriage, such as how a society views certain courtship rules, as well as certain forms of affection such as kissing, are not universal.

Barone, Fran. "Romantic or Disgusting? Passionate Kissing Is Not a Human Universal."
<https://hraf.yale.edu/romantic-or-disgusting-passionate-kissing-is-not-a-human-universal/>

STUDENT	Natalia Jankowski
MAJOR	English/Biological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Marriage, Courting, Affection, and their Impact on Different Cultures

Marriage, courting, relationships and community, they are all seen as culture universals, and the most important part about them is that they all have one thing in common: connection. No matter how these universals are practiced in different cultures around the world, from the strict and assertive Icelanders to the traditional Hadza community, all of these cultures rely on social interaction in order to keep their society alive and healthy, and with that interaction it allows the communities to not only be healthy, but allow the individuals in that society to experience the joy of human connection and to live their best lives with the people they love.

STUDENT	Diana Mitova
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	The Cultural Significance of Social Drinking and how it exists as a Cultural Universal

What is social drinking? Is it what movies portray as friends hanging out in a bar, or perhaps a tool used in social settings, ceremonies, and holidays that can bring people together? A time that people value together, typically to celebrate special occasions or holidays, and is even mentioned as a “total social phenomena” ... Does social drinking need to strictly involve alcohol, or are there different substances involved? Most importantly, is the behavior of social drinking a cultural universal? The many questions that have been presented, will be researched, and answered through this paper. The main goal being to discover, if social drinking is a cultural universal. To establish the result, this research paper will look at **three main cultures from all around the world, Serbian, Sherpa, and Tonga.**

STUDENT	Diana Mitova
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	The Cultural Significance of Social Drinking and how it exists as a Cultural Universal

Social drinking holds cultural, traditional and sacred values to the Serbian, Sherpa and Tonga people. Social drinking allows the cultures to welcome their hosts, share a common drink, celebrate weddings, ring in the new year, and many other occasions. Social drinking is not tied to one type of beverage, thus allowing it to be universal around the world ... No matter how high in the Himalayas, or how south in the Pacific Ocean the culture is, the practice of social drinking continues. Social drinking appears in games, as seen in the Serbian culture, story telling as seen in the Sherpa culture and in village gatherings, as seen in the Tonga culture. Each culture uses social drinking as a way to make a guest comfortable and show hospitality; each culture has a local drink typically home made by its people; each culture uses social drinking to celebrate and honor traditions. Through the above findings, an inference can be made that **social drinking is a cultural universal.**

STUDENT	Mark Moscoso
MAJOR	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
LEVEL	Freshman
TOPIC	The Battle of Light and Dark in Different Cultures

In one way or another each of these three cultures has proven that there does seem to be some sort of religious power struggle, be it internal or external, this fight between a light and dark side is apparent. However, the way each culture's belief system interprets or portrays this is different ... But there are still certain aspects of all three that tie each of them together. The Barim River Carib of South America, and the Innu of North America, have many similarities when it comes to how their environment has influenced the way they think about the world around them. Living in either a tropical rainforest or the icy tundra has its own problems ... As was explained beforehand, these two tribe groups believe that food and how it is acquired is the most important part of everyday life. Yet the Innu take their hunting to another level, believing and respecting the spirits of each animal that sacrifices itself for their sake.

STUDENT	Mark Moscoso
MAJOR	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
LEVEL	Freshman
TOPIC	The Battle of Light and Dark in Different Cultures

The Carib see a person's spirit in two parts, the good and bad. From what positive things they have done in their lives, to the negative things. The good side goes back to nature, the source of life, and the bad side stays in the underworld to never rest. **This is their power struggle, between a person's dark and light side.** The Innu also deal with spirits and internal struggling. However, it is the inner struggling of a person towards a higher being. These master spirits of each animal, that they depend on to survive, put the Innu in check. There is a more complicated way to appeasing them, and thus a more complex struggle in each person. It still is the conflict of the good and bad side of everyone. But if drawn towards ignorance (the dark side), these higher beings who are also connected to the person's soul will punish it with bad luck.

STUDENT	Cristian Pimienta
MAJOR	Digital Media and Design
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Is Marriage A Cultural Universal?

There are many reasons why people get married, and also many circumstances. These reasons vary from each country and culture. All the reasons and circumstances are shaped or instructed by our society or the culture we live in. We take actions based on what is taught and done inside our cultures. That is why it is so important to see the contrast between different cultures. When we investigate and research about different cultures, we can find valued information about what other people think, do or say about universal topics. In this case, we are going to investigate how marriage is seen within different cultures. **We can also learn a lot from other cultures and see it from other perspectives.**

STUDENT	Cristian Pimienta
MAJOR	Digital Media and Design
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Is Marriage A Cultural Universal?

We can conclude that although these cultures are totally different, some share some similar characteristics ... The family is also an important point regarding marriage. The family is part of that decision in the life of each of its members. We can also conclude that in these cultures, their members did not have much power to choose when to marry or who to marry. However, when married they worked hard to maintain a well-formed home. **Another important point that we can see between these cultures is the importance of women in the growth of these societies.**

STUDENT	Marcus Russell
MAJOR	Financial Management/Economics
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Are Apprenticeships A Cultural Universal?

As all cultures need to train, educate, and prepare the younger generation to take over. When and how they do this differs among cultures. **While studying whether or not apprenticeships are a cultural universal, the emphasis is on the following three cultures: Imperial Romans, Amish, and Vietnamese.** These vastly different cultures give critical insight into how, why, and who receives apprenticeships. To fully understand how these three cultures articulate apprenticeships are a cultural universal, we must dig into how each functions.

STUDENT	Marcus Russell
MAJOR	Financial Management/Economics
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Are Apprenticeships A Cultural Universal?

The types of apprenticeship positions will differ based on what the culture needs at that time. For example, Imperial Rome had a focus on metal work because of their need for armor as well as the desire for the finer things such as gold. The Amish require more practical skills such as taking care of farm animals or teaching. The Vietnamese focused more on carpentry and weaving. Yet each of them needed an apprentice. **It is clear that all cultures have a type of apprenticeship.** For a culture to pass down elder knowledge to the younger generation, they need some kind of apprenticeship. Passing down knowledge through an apprenticeship is effective because it allows the apprentice to work hands-on with a master. While each culture had their own definition of apprenticeship, they all had some type that fit their cultural need at that time.

STUDENT	Emma Seymour
MAJOR	Political Science
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Cultures and Spicy Food

The consumption of spicy foods or even foods that contain spices in them has become a cultural universal. In the United States, we have the opportunity to experience a mix of spicy foods coming from many cultures across the globe ... Different cultures have adopted elements from each of these spicy foods and incorporated it into their own dishes. The culture from Mexico that will be discussed is an ancient culture known as The Zapotecs. The Zapotecs were an ancient civilization that originated in Oaxaca, Mexico. India has created dishes such as curry and vindaloo. Each of these dishes incorporate the indigenous spices that cultures from India use to make their food spicy. The culture originating from India that often used spices and seasoning in their food for a variety of reasons is the Bengali culture. The culture from Sri Lanka that will be explored is the Tamil people. Each of these countries have a multitude of cultures within them that have paved the way for each country to become as well known for spicy foods as they now are.

STUDENT	Emma Seymour
MAJOR	Political Science
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Cultures and Spicy Food

From this examination and the research done of each of the cultures, it is apparent that they all have one thing in common: spicy foods. However, when you research beyond that, one will notice the many differences in customs and opinions that the cultures have surrounding spicy food. Now, living in the United States, spicy foods surround us. We have restaurants such as Chipotle and Popeyes that take spicy ingredients found within each culture and incorporate them into new dishes. **Researching these cultures shows how each of these countries contributed to spicy food becoming so popular on a cultural and anthropological level.**

STUDENT	Thahera Shafi
MAJOR	Computer Science
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	Sex Work as a Cultural Universal

Despite prostitution being regarded as one of the most degrading lines of work, it comes as no surprise that it is heavily prevalent among many countries and cultures. **Prostitution is also deemed as one of the oldest professions in history and should be considered a cultural universal for both its longevity and its prevalence on a global scale.** Sex work differs among varying countries, and both culture and religion play significant roles in the various forms of sex work. American cities have illegalized prostitution, whereas it is entirely legal in Bangladesh, and Indonesian law fails to address prostitution at all. All three of these countries see sex work in a negative light regardless of the legality of the issue. These countries experience a large number of sex workers due to the severity of poverty-stricken areas.

STUDENT	Thahera Shafi
MAJOR	Computer Science
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	Sex Work as a Cultural Universal

In cultures where it is frequently seen that money is proportional to social status, many more individuals, including children, are more likely to enter the sex industry in the hopes of changing their current living situations. The majority of the sex industry in many cultures is run on the helplessness and impoverishment of young men and women enticed by the promise of quick and easy money. In a system founded on the continued exploitation of its low-class workers, it is oftentimes found that those that willingly work in the sex industry do not achieve the goal they intended. **For those that were forced into the trade, victims tend to be from the lower classes of societies and have little to no social standing in the first place.**

STUDENT	Mohamed Read Uddin
MAJOR	Digital Media and Design
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Is the distribution of inheritance culturally universal?

Among Bengali Muslims, **inheritance is governed by Islamic law**, which requires an authorization or consent from a man's female dependents to inherit a portion of his property; since sons are expected to be the sole providers for their families, the law requires them to receive more of a father's property than do daughters. In actual Bengali Muslim practice, however, daughters commonly forego or are deprived of their inheritance of immovable property in favor of their brothers, in anticipation that if they need to return to their natal homes after widowhood or divorce their brothers will take care of them.

STUDENT	Mohamed Read Uddin
MAJOR	Digital Media and Design
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Is the distribution of inheritance culturally universal?

Libyan Bedouin rules focus on finding the next male relative to pass the wealth and property to while the widow in Bangladesh can inherit her deceased husband's wealth and property regardless of them being separated or together. In the Aztec culture, the concept of inheritance was very similar as well. **Women having little to no inheritance rights. Only the men inheriting most of the wealth.** This concludes that all cultures have an inheritance system that distributes wealth and property not very equally when women are involved.

STUDENT	Kaitlin Ufomaduh
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Arranged Marriages Across the Taiwanese Hokkien, Palestinian and Shona Cultures

Is bridewealth or dowry ubiquitous amongst arranged marriages? This research paper examines whether forms of either show up in three cultures across three regions: the Taiwanese Hokkien culture in east Asia, Palestinian culture in the Middle East, and Shona culture in South Africa. Though each culture is separated in distance and tradition, dowry and bridewealth in various forms are predominant. Within the Taiwan Hokkien community, three types of marriage are most commonly practiced. Within all three forms of marriage, a kind of payment is made to one family, whether the bride is giving family or the bride taking or often to both families. Significant marriage was most prevalent, involving a matchmaker, engagement, both a dowry and brideprice, and a wedding ceremony.

STUDENT	Kaitlin Ufomaduh
MAJOR	Psychological Sciences
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Arranged Marriages Across the Taiwanese Hokkien, Palestinian and Shona Cultures

Despite each culture, vast differences, the custom of bride price unifies their traditions and humanity. A cultural relative amongst the three cultures, especially in Palestine, is that marrying within the clan is preferred compared to the modern world's norm for exogamy. Concerning more than one spouse, the Palestinian people and Shona support polygyny; however, it is not common due to economic status. As seen in the Taiwanese Hokkien people, the bride price is instituted depending on each culture. In the Taiwanese Hokkien culture, it can be a way for the patrilineal lineage to continue or in the Palestinian people, as a means for a man to pay off his debt. While the Shona youth are the only culture to have expressed the tradition of bride price being outdated, the older generation insists the tradition continues. **Only time will tell whether the bride price will play a pivotal role in consummating future cultural marriages.**

STUDENT	Jessica Wang
MAJOR	Physiology & Neurobiology
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Polygamy

Statistics of cultures across the world show that the practice of polygamy is almost common in several states across the globe. The structure of polygamy is such that one man is married to several wives. However, in some rare instances and cultures, women have practiced polyandry, which a form of polygamy in which a woman is married to more than one man at a time for a husband. Different cultures have practiced various forms of polygamy. Unlike, monogamy which is the practice of marrying one wife, polygyny, and polyandry practices are often not legal in most countries around the world.

STUDENT	Jessica Wang
MAJOR	Physiology & Neurobiology
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Polygamy

In conclusion, in three systems – the Samoan, the Igbo, and the Zulu – polygamy was a common phenomenon. However, the reason and the shape that the polygamy took varied depending on the culture in question. In the case of the Igbo and the Zulu, polygamy as a practice was allowed for all community members. However, in the Samoan culture, polygamy was reserved only for the highest-ranking community chiefs. In the case of the Samoan and the Igbo cultures, polygamy was abolished with the onset of Christianity and the establishment of laws that prohibited such. In the case of the Zulu of South Africa, the habit has only gone down, but it is still rampant in rural areas of Kwa Zulu natal, among others. In the case of the Igbo and the Zulu cultures, the reason for polygamy was for getting male children. Such is to mean in both cultures; if a woman was either barren unable to bear a male child, the man was permitted to marry another wife to give him a son.

STUDENT	Rashana Weerasinghe
MAJOR	Business Data Analytics
LEVEL	Freshman
TOPIC	The Examination of Non-Monogamous Marriages in Igbo, Iranian and Sinhalese Cultures

Marriage is a cultural universal and evolutionary phenomenon. This means it takes place in every culture and evolves. However, there are different types of marriage systems. These include monogamy, polygamy and polyandry. Such types of marriages are rooted in cultural and traditional ideologies and values. Unlike marriage, these types of mating systems are not cultural universals. **Looking closely at the Igbo (FF26), Iranian (MA01), and Sinhalese (AX04) cultures help demonstrate the differences between such systems, as well as the reasons behind such marriages.**

STUDENT	Rashana Weerasinghe
MAJOR	Business Data Analytics
LEVEL	Freshman
TOPIC	The Examination of Non-Monogamous Marriages in Igbo, Iranian and Sinhalese Cultures

Further analysis of polygamous and polyandrous relationships in different cultures, it becomes clear these are complex mating systems. Delving into parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East reveals that other types of marriage exist and are practiced. While the amount of polygamous and polyandrous relationships is on the decline, they are still present in societies. Thus, even though marriage is a cultural universal, the number of spouses one has is not. This proves that monogamy is not a cultural universal. Despite monogamy being more widely accepted, it is not the only marriage system prevalent in every culture. **Monogamy is culturally more popular, but not a cultural universal.**

STUDENT	Joseph Williams
MAJOR	Digital Media and Design
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Is Marriage Truly A Cultural Universal?

In the Taiwan Hokkien culture during the time of betrothal the families of the spouses will give one another gifts in order to show respect for the combining of their households ... the husband's family does their best to find someone to wed him. The person entering their family must meet all their criteria whether it be wealth or economic status. They give the wife and her family such extravagant gifts to honor her for meeting their needs. This is unique considering that in most cultures if marriages involved gifts then both spouses would receive equal gifts from the respective family. Both families would also show both the bride and groom an equal amount of respect.

STUDENT	Joseph Williams
MAJOR	Digital Media and Design
LEVEL	Senior
TOPIC	Is Marriage Truly A Cultural Universal?

In China, the Chinese are suffering from a low marriage rate. In order to deal with this a practice known as the **marriage market** was open to help people meet potential spouses. The marriage market parallels the culture of the Taiwan Hokkien. Where the wives are treated like treasure in Taiwan Hokkien culture, women are looked at like produce in the Chinese marriage market. Reason being because in the marriage market, women are examined to see if they are worth the time of either the husband or the husband's family. This also brings in family tradition for women in Chinese culture, and how they must continue the family lineage in order to honor their parents. This causes women who are looking for a husband to be desperate and feel pressure during their search. That leads to the discussion of **leftover women**, or rather women that no one wants to marry.

STUDENT	Tina Wu
MAJOR	Computer Science
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	Color Perception and Language

The strange distinction in color terminology brings a question: **do differences in languages affect our perceptions of color?** Linguistic relativists argued in the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis that language determines or influences thoughts and cognitive categories; while universalists see a clear pattern in the development of color names across all languages. For example, living in eastern Siberia, “the coldest place on Earth”, the Yakut have only one common name for all colors in the whole group of green, blue, and violet in their “Northeast Turkic language”. Therefore, they often confuse within the color group or cannot tell each apart at all.

STUDENT	Tina Wu
MAJOR	Computer Science
LEVEL	Junior
TOPIC	Color Perception and Language

On the other hand, The Saami, concentrated in Northern Europe, simply recognize more colors because they have more color terms in their language, a “western division of the Finno-Ugric Branch of the Uralic Family”. Both living high in latitude, the differences in distinguishing colors reflect the importance of a deeper separation in color naming on perception. However, there are similarities in both color categorization and color hierarchy throughout most languages, showing how **biological factors affect color perception** for all people despite different languages and how those perceptions reversely form each language.

STUDENT	Anna Zerbinati
MAJOR	Financial Management
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Music Across Cultures

It is no surprise to see bilingual music climb the Billboard charts in the United States. With hits such as “Macarena” in 1996, and “Despacito” in 2017, it is safe to say language barriers mean nothing to the production of tones and rhythms. **Music is a universal system of communication.** It can convey emotions of happiness or sadness that strike at the core of the shared human experience. This paper focuses on the evolution of music, and how cultures who do not share the same language, somehow manage to learn music from each other. With this mutual communication system our ancestors taught, sung, and danced with each other, evolving music into what we see today.

STUDENT	Anna Zerbinati
MAJOR	Financial Management
LEVEL	Sophomore
TOPIC	Music Across Cultures

Music is a very important aspect of marriage and temple festivals for the Tamil people. It is common for there to be a Sakkiliyar orchestra at these important ceremonies. Functions between the orchestra are divided, the priest of the Sakkili temple uses the small announcing drum and the light drum with two skins, another priest uses the principal drum, and the third the friction drum. The orchestra, as a rule, is lead by the town messenger (Dumont 1911: 56) Drums covered in skins, made by competent artists in the village, are impure, giving the untouchables of the village the music monopoly (Dumont 1911 :54). The Parayana caste's occupation is to beat a drum called tom-tom on festival occasions, and at burial ceremonies. "The body is carried to the burial ground, with the loud music of drums and blowings of sangu or shells." (Dhanasekaran 1965; 13-B)

