

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a dense crowd of people. The image is mostly in grayscale, but several individuals are highlighted with bright colors: red, blue, green, pink, orange, yellow, and purple. The crowd appears to be moving or gathered in a large open space. A white rectangular box with a black border is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the title text.

# Culture: A Sociological Look

# Culture: A Definition

- the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group  
(Dictionary.com)

Why do you think it might be important to study culture as part of Sociology?

# What is Culture???

- **Education**
- **Government**
- **Agriculture**
- **Economy**
- **Sport**
- **Grooming**
- **Values**
- **Work ethic**
- **Etiquette**
- **Courtship**
- **Recreation**
- **Gestures**

- **Religion**
- **Language**
- **Architecture**
- **Cuisine**
- **Technology**
- **Music**
- **Dance**
- **Sports**
- **Medicine**
- **Dress**
- **Gender roles**
- **Law**

# Why is Language important?

- Allows people to communicate with one another within a culture
- Allows people to pass on traditions and culture to younger generations (Orally and Written)
- Cultural Identity – Eg. “Vietnamese speak Vietnamese”
- Connection to ancestors
- Pass on history!!  
(very important!!!!)



# Government

- Governments make decisions on how resources will be allocated towards different cultural endeavors and what will be allowed
  - Ex. Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
  - Cultural censorship – What the government does not allow in

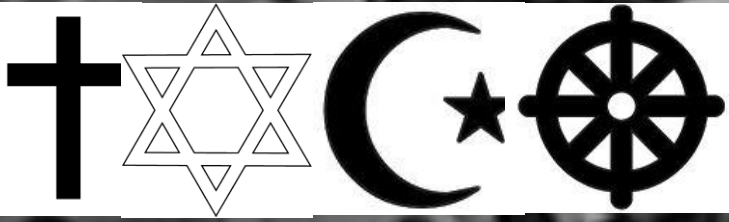
# What do religions and holidays tell about a society?

## Religion

- Gives people direction on how to live their life
- Values and Beliefs
- Morals

## Holidays

- What people honor
- Traditional celebrations



# Religion

- What is Religion?

- a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, esp. when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.

EXAMPLE: Pillars of Islam

- Iman - Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad;
- Salah - Establishment of the daily prayers;
- Zakah - Concern for and almsgiving to the needy;
- Sawm - Self-purification through fasting; and
- Hajj - The pilgrimage to Makkah for those who are able.

# Holidays

- A day fixed by law or custom on which ordinary business is suspended in commemoration of some event or in honor of some person.





# Holidays – China vs USA

- 2010 New Year's Day January 1
  - [Spring Festival](#) (Chinese New Year) New Year's Day of the lunar calendar
  - 2010 Women's Day March 8
  - Arbor Day March 12
  - Qingming Festival April 4 or April 5
  - May Day May 1
  - Youth Day May 4th
  - International Nurse Day May 12
  - Children's Day June 1
  - [Dragon Boat Festival](#) 5th day of the 5th lunar month
  - Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese Communist Party July
  - Army Day August
  - Teacher's Day September 10
  - [Mid-autumn Festival](#) 15th day of the 8th lunar month
  - National Day October 1
  - Journalists' Day November 8
- **January 1, 2010** (friday): New Year's Day
    - **January 18, 2010** (monday): Martin Luther King Day
    - **February 15, 2010** (monday): Presidents Day
    - **May 31, 2010** (monday): Memorial Day
    - **July 4, 2010** (sunday): Independence Day
      - **September 6, 2010** (monday): Labor Day
    - **October 11, 2010** (monday): Columbus Day
    - **November 11, 2010** (thursday): Veterans' Day
    - **November 25, 2010** (thursday): Thanksgiving Day
    - **December 25, 2010** (saturday): Christmas Day
  - Un-Official Holidays
    - Valentine's Day – Feb 14
    - St Patrick's Day – March 14
    - Halloween – October 31
    - Easter – Dates change
    - Oktoberfest - October
    - Father's Day - June 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday
    - Mother's Day – May 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday
    - Mardi Gras – Date Varies
    - Cinco de Mayo – May 5th

# Sports and Activities



- Cultures use sports as a way to express their cultures and build bonds within culture

# Etiquette



- The expected behavior for an individual living within a society

# Architecture



- A particular way in which a society designs their buildings. Can be cultural expression or practicality

# Grooming and Dress

- Grooming – The ways in which you clean and maintain your body



- Dress- Used as way to express self



# Courtship



- The portion of a couple's relationship before engagement and marriage

# Cuisine



- The food a culture eats