

Introduction to Cultural Geography

Defining culture and examining the
Cultural Landscape

Culture Defined

- A way of life underpinned by particular values and traditions
 - The expression of those values and traditions through writing, music, visual and performing arts, or through rituals, festivals and the like.
 - The intellectual, spiritual, and aesthetic development that distinguish humans from animals

Culture Criticism

- “There is no culture in the world, only differing arrays of power that organize society in this way and not that”
 - Don Mitchell, Syracuse University 2000



Culture as related to Geography

- Examines culture of particular groups
 - Cultural Politics
 - How culture is practiced
 - How culture is captured materially and symbolically
 - Artifacts
 - Landscapes



Main Factors of 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

The Cultural Landscape

- The visible, material landscape that cultural groups create as they inhabit the earth.
 - Mankind's mark on the landscape left behind through the process of construction, agriculture, landscaping and conservation



Importance of the Cultural Landscape

- Cultural landscapes are the accumulation of artifacts that help present information about the people(s) that have live there
 - Evidence about the spread and development of cultures
 - Alterations to the landscapes that reflect their identity



Material vs. Non-Material Culture

Material Culture

- clothing
- buildings
- farming patterns
- technology



Non-Material Culture

- Language
- Religion
- Political organization
- Customs or traditions



Reading a Cultural Landscape

- By looking at a culture's environment it is possible to see what the culture values, divisions of society, connections to other cultures, etc...

