Seeing “American Culture”

Seeing Influences to American Culture through Food and Housing Styles
Examining Housing Styles

• Through looking at the different housing styles in America it is possible to see the different areas that influences the United States over time.

• Most of the housing styles are based off European designs with distinct American additions
  • Larger in size, addition of garages
Shotgun House

• Unique to North America
• Originally popular in African American communities of the south, diffused to the North in post-Civil War Era
Dutch Colonial

- Housing style inspired by buildings in the Netherlands
- Housing style popular in early 20th century featured distinctive roof shape
Georgian Style

- Housing style based off British design
- Extremely popular in colonial America but has continued through to the current, primarily featuring symmetry form
Victorian/Queen Anne Style

- Design based off British design
- Similar to Jacobean style of early 17th century England, became popular in United States in late 19th century
Bungalow

• Modeled after Bengali style housing, spread to England during Imperial era and became common in post-World War I America
Craftsman or Prairie School

• Uniquely American Design
• Developed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, especially popular design style in Midwest suburbs
French Provincial/French Revival

- Modeled after French country Manors, these styles of houses were built to give off air of sophistication in inter-war architecture
Italianate Style

• Diffused from England but style contains hints of Italian origins, features symmetry and use of columns
Spanish Revival

- Inspired by architecture of Spain and Latin America, especially popular in southern US where it is resistant to the elements and stays cooler
Examining American Food

• The food of the United States is as diverse as the people itself. Again the United States owes a lot of its culture to that of Europe, but the food has developed a unique American taste to distinguish it from its European originals
  • Food Slides selected from CNN Travel’s Top 50 American Foods

• Most American foods are the result of Stimulus Diffusion – The general idea of something is adopted, but it is changed to regional tastes and preferences
Pot Roast (Consumed Everywhere)

• English in Origin
• Healthy amounts of Beef and fresh vegetables.
• Carries on the English tradition of a Sunday Roast
Chicken Fried Steak (Consumed mostly in Texas)

• Veal recipe from Austria adapted for Texas beef
• born to go with all-American sides like mashed potatoes and black-eyed peas.
Meatloaf (Everywhere)

• German/Belgian in Origin
• Been a staple of most American households since 1918
Mac and Cheese (Consumer Everywhere)

- Origins in Italy
- Recipe brought to the United States by Thomas Jefferson
Baked Beans (Consumer Everywhere)

• Native American in Origin
• Pioneers in Boston came up for recipe of navy beans and molasses
  • Famously gave town nickname of “Beantown”
Enchiladas (Southwest)

- Mesoamerican in Origin
- Brought to the United States by Mexican Immigrants
- Quickly spreading as immigrants move around the USA
Sandwich (Everywhere)

- English in Origin
- Ham sandwich reigns supreme followed closely by the BLT
Apple Pie (Everywhere)

• English in Origin
• Pilgrims actually introduced Apples to North America
• Has become quintessential American Desert
Pizza (Everywhere)

- Italian in Origin
- Americanized in Chicago
- UNOs Pizza Made it big and healthy enough to be eaten as a meal
Hot Dogs (Everywhere)

• Brought to the United States from Germany
• Best grilled! Goes best with summertime and a baseball game
• Brats (bigger meatier) only really in heavy German Areas
Reuben Sandwich (Everywhere)

- Origins in Germany
- Eaten now where ever Germans could have been found at one point.
- Best served along with Sauerkraut
Hamburger (Everywhere)

- German in Origin
- American purists will only eat if it comes off a grill
- Commercialized by McDonalds 😞
Thanksgiving Dinner

- Distinctly American
- Turkey, Corn, Cranberries, Potatoes all native to the Americas