

Honors First Year Seminar  
Response to Culture Readings  
September 9, 2016

From the first article, I learned that culture is something that is a part of everyone. It is a framework of who we are as individuals. We acquire our culture from many sources, including our family, religious organizations, education, and society itself. Culture is always changing, it is selective, meaning that we as individuals choose which parts of our culture are incorporated into our personality. Culture is also ethnocentric. A basic explanation of this would be “My way is the best way”. The idea of a person’s culture is much like an iceberg. Only a small part of it is exposed and visible on the surface, and one might believe that’s all there is to it. This correlates with what we think when we see someone on the street. We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg, and that person’s unique culture is something that cannot necessarily be seen from the surface: it makes up the rest of the iceberg. Culture consists of communication, time, power, individualism, structure, and thinking.

The second article taught me that intercultural praxis encourages us to think of intercultural communication as a way of acting, being, and thinking instead of an “object” of study. The components of intercultural praxis are as follows; Inquiry (willingness to ask questions and cast judgement aside), framing (clarifying & shifting frames from micro to meso to macro levels), positioning (who you are compared to others in terms of power), dialogue (open exchange of ideas), reflection (looking back on thoughts & actions), and action (informed and ethical actions taken to promote a more just society). One way that I can apply this to my own life is by engaging in these practices with international students that I come across at this new school.

The third and final article breaks down the three frames of intercultural communication; micro, meso, and macro. Micro is at the individual level, highlighting cultural communication styles and conflict orientations. Meso focuses on group based issues, such as prejudice, ethnocentrism, cultural history & identity, as well as systematic inequities. Finally, macro is the full expansion into media, economics, politics, and geopolitical power.

#### Sources

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