

## Key Terms and Concepts Chapter 8: Why is the concept of culture important?

Define and provide an example for each term listed below. Definitions MUST be in your own words. You may use examples provided in the text. Fill in all boxes. Copying definitions from the Internet will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment. Each term and example are worth 2 points. There are 25 terms and 25 examples, for a total of 100 points.

When dealing with scholars' names, you need to identify them by providing a description of their work (as presented in your textbook), and the impact of their research within the field.

Key Terms and Concepts assignments are designed to help you become familiar with the new anthropological vocabulary and with the wide range of scholars in the field. It is expected that you will use this vocabulary and these scholars in your film discussions and expository essays.

To obtain a high mark on this assignment, I recommend reading the accompanying chapter and highlighting the terms/concepts/scholars while reading.

Term	Definition	Example
Culture	Sets of learned behavior and ideas that human beings acquire as members of society. Human beings use culture to adapt to and transform the world in which they live.	Customs and Laws are examples of culture.
Enculturation	The process by which human beings living with one another must learn to come to terms with the ways of thinking and feeling that are considered appropriate in their respective cultures.	Learning slang language.
"Culture is shared"	Because children learn to act, think, feel, and speak at the same time, we will use the term socialization/enculturation to represent this holistic experience. Socialization/enculturation produces a socially and culturally constructed self capable of functioning successfully in society.	People meeting up to play softball once a week.
"Culture is patterned"	Related cultural beliefs and practices show up repeatedly in different areas of social life.	Tipping hats in different areas.
"Culture is adaptive"	Newborns are not born with "instincts" that would enable them to survive on their own.	People smiling to show they are happy to see someone.
"Culture is symbolic"	The fact that we can translate from one language to another suggests that the same or similar meanings can be expressed by different symbols in different languages.	The concept of good and evil.

Socialization	The process by which human beings as material organisms, living together with other similar organisms, cope with the behavioral rules established by their respective societies.	Interacting with friends and family.
Human Agency	The way people struggle, often against great odds, to exercise some control over their lives.	Actions you take driving a car.
Coevolution	The dialectical relationship between biological processes and symbolic cultural processes, in which each makes up an important part of the environment to which the other must adapt.	Flowering plants and associated pollinators.
Symbol	Something that stands for something else.	A red octagon is a common symbol for "STOP"
Ethnocentrism	The opinion that one's own way of life is natural or correct and, indeed, the only true way of being fully human.	Asian cultures using chopsticks.
Cultural Relativism	Understanding another culture in its own terms sympathetically enough so that the culture appears to be a coherent and meaningful design for living.	Same-sex friends in India walking in public while holding hands.
Holism	A characteristic of the anthropological perspective that describes, at the highest and most inclusive level, how anthropology tries to integrate all that is known about human beings and their activities.	Belief you cannot break things down to study them, but instead that everything has to be understood in relation to the whole or the sum of its parts.
Cultural Imperialism	The idea that some cultures dominate others and that domination by one culture leads inevitably to the destruction of subordinated cultures and their replacement by the culture of those in power.	The native tribe's ownership of casinos on their land granted by federal laws.
Female genital mutilation	Practices that have some cultural legitimacy yet are designated harmful to women, particularly to their health.	Removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs.
Cultural Hybridity	The notion of cultural mixing.	Louisiana Creole which is a combination of African, French, and English languages.

Culture Shock	The shock of another culture.	Going to another country and experiencing Language barriers and unfamiliar customs.
Fieldwork	An extended period of close involvement with the people in whose language or way of life anthropologists are interested, during which anthropologists ordinarily collect most of their data.	The work of Charles Darwin on the Galapagos Islands studying animals.
Participant Observation	The method anthropologists use to gather information by living as closely as possible to the people whose culture they are studying while participating in their lives as much as possible. patriarchy: The domination of men over women and	Studies where researchers lived for long periods of time among different ethnic, cultural, or religious communities (Mead 1928)
Multisite Fieldwork	Comparison of the similarities and differences in relationships across different sites allows ethnoprmatologists to document successes and challenges faced by all -parties to these encounters	Studying pyramids in Egypt and in South America.
Rick Potts	Expert in ancient environments, reviewed evidence about the environment in which Ar. ramidus would have lived at the two Ethiopian sites, Aramis and Gona, where its fossils were found.	Brought to light that in fact variably in time and space that it is almost useless when examining habitat-specific versus habitat variability explanations of human evolution
Sally Engle Merry (In their own words page 243)	Sally Engle Merry is professor of anthropology at New York University. Researched why is the idea of cultural relativism anathema to many human-rights activists?	Brought understanding that adopting a more sophisticated and dynamic understanding of culture not only promotes human-rights activism, but also relocates anthropological theorizing to the center of these issues rather than to the margins, where it has been banished.

Alice Walker	African American novelist that published a best-selling novel <i>Possessing the Secret of Joy</i> , in which the heroine is an African woman who undergoes the operation, suffers psychologically and physically, and eventually pursues the female elder who performed the ritual on her.	Discovered that particularly women from societies in which female genital cutting is an ongoing practice have responded with far less enthusiasm. Not that these means that these women are in favor of female genital cutting that in fact, many of them are actively working to discourage the practice.
Janice Boddy	Cultural anthropologist who has carried out field research since 1976 in the Muslim village of Hofriyat in rural northern Sudan.	Discovered female circumcision is required, however, to make a girl marriageable, making it possible for her “to use her one great gift, fertility” (Boddy 1997, 310).
Lassiter and cultural hybridity	Worked with Kiowa elders, struggles of Native Americans.	The concept that in the 1860s, escalating struggles between settlers and Native American groups led federal policy makers to place federal Indian policy in the hands of Christian reformers “who would embrace the hard work of transforming Indians and resist the lure of getting rich off the system’s spoils”