Culture, A Brief Introduction

(1) **Culture** is the way a particular people lives; it includes arts, beliefs, customs, institutions, inventions, technology and values; it is the totality of socially transmitted behavioral patterns. Culture is a human construct; people learn culture from parents, teachers, religious leaders and society. Usually, Culture is based on **language**: French, Chinese, and German cultures are based on language. Language is an immediate and intimate way people interact with the world, and if their language is “threatened,” they become very protective of it. (Note the English only movement in some states.) A “**Minority**” in cultural terms means in terms of power, not in terms of population. Sometimes an ethnic group in a country is a minority (the Kurds in Turkey) and sometimes it is a majority (the Han in China). Cultures are thieves, stealing much of their ideas and substance from other cultures. Most cultures are not pure, that is, uninfluenced by other cultures. Often, cultures intentionally or unintentionally hide their debt to other cultures. (Whom does Thursday celebrate?) Cultures are continuously changing, and American culture, like most cultures, has changed often. (“New” is the most used word in advertisement.)

(2) The concept that all cultures are orderly systems within which customs and institutions are rational (make sense) in their own terms is called “Cultural Relativism” (relative to the culture’s own values). (In a Christian culture, it is rational to have Sunday as a day off from work? What about for a Muslim country? What about for Jews?) In most cultures, a system of related values come to dominate all other values; this Dominant Culture is the current pervasive beliefs of a society. The Dominant American Culture (DAC) stresses the often conflicting values of religion, individuality, self reliance, consumerism, democracy, media hypertension, free market, mobility, and progress. (Who was the first person in your family to go to college?)

(3) A **pluralistic** society allows several groups to share in power. An important part of the power structure in every society is the relationship of the culture to religion. Like language, religion is often one of the essential ingredients in a culture. A culture’s **Belief System** comes from sacred stories, from myths, which tell how a culture was created by the gods and sacred ancestors; a Belief System provides people with models of behavior. A culture’s **Value System** separates behavior into good and bad and often grows out of a Belief System. Another way of understanding power is to think in terms of the social mechanisms of Formal and Informal culture. **FORMAL** CULTURE involves mandates, such as in the Law, Education, Politics and Religion. **Informal Culture** involves personal choices, such as in Music, Art, Popular culture, Food and Dress. Over time, these mechanisms have often promoted justice in American culture, forcing or tempting society to become more diverse.

(4) Immigrants to America have always been a source of conflict, usually involving the most effective way to become an American. Of course, for the 2.8 million Native Americans immigration has a negative connotation: immigrants wreaked havoc on their ways of life. Black Americans, many of whose ancestors were forced immigrants to America, make up around 13-14% of the American population (around 36 million). For a long time Asians were not encouraged to emigrate to America, but now they make up about 5% of all immigrants. European immigrants have generally done better, but not all were successful. Many first generation immigrants experience “**culture shock**,” which is the depression caused by homesickness. In the last 40 years or so the debate about the most effective way for immigrants to become “Americanized” has heated up. One way, which has been pushed for over a hundred and fifty years, is “**Assimilation**.” Also, called the melting pot, it means to accept all or part of the dominant culture, especially language—to let the American experience melt away all or most of non-American traits. In the past few decades, Acculturation has challenged assimilation. This newer, “**salad bowl**” approach means an immigrant can live in two cultures (his home culture and America) simultaneously and use can ideas and values from both without giving up his or her complex identity. Even before the European invasions, America was multicultural because it always had “many cultures” within it. Today this incredible diversity is the source of much of America’s greatness: its endless quest for justice.

**The Population of America**

1. America’s total population is around 305 million; by 2050 it will be a) 439 m b) 539 m
2. Today Whites are about 66% of the population; in 2050 they will be about a) 36% b) 46% c) 56%
3. Whites in America will probably be a minority in a) 2042 b) 2032 c) Tuesday
4. The largest/fastest growing minority is a) white b) Hispanic c) black d) Indians
5. The Hispanic population is projected to nearly triple, from almost 47 million to 133 million, during the 2008-2050 period, and, of the total population, will jump from 15 percent to a) 20% b) 25% c) 30%
6. The census forms do not include any questions regarding sexual orientation, making it impossible to compile data comparing heterosexual and homosexual populations. Approximate number of gay people in America: a) 4.3 million b) 10-20 million c) 40 million
7. In 2050, about one in ten Americans will be a) Asian- Pacific Islander Americans b) white Americans c) black Americans d) Hispanic Americans e) left handed Americans
8. The 2000 census was the first in which people could identify themselves as belonging to two or more races. By 2050, the number of people classified as mixed race is projected to go from 5.2 million to a) 16.2 m b) 26.2 m c) 36.2 m
9. Immigrants and their descendants will account for what percent of the projected population increase from 2005 to 2050: a) 52% b) 72% c) 82%
10. As far as biology is concerned, race is a) an illusion b) an essential reality of human anatomy
11. In this course, Multicultural America means an America in which every person a) hugs and kisses everyone else b) criticizes America endlessly c) whines about how much their group has suffered d) has an equal opportunity for justice, and, through his or her own efforts, to have a successful life.

12. This tradition emphasizes how, in American history and today, most change and most improvements in issues of justice come from the bottom up, from people of diverse backgrounds, races, religions and classes; it emphasizes the People, not leaders, as the predominate force for equality and freedom: a) the Vernacular Tradition.

**Blocks to Justice/ Multicultural America**

1. In God’s name: using God to justify an horrific, inhumane act; example:
2. Stereotype: lumping people together in a way that denies individuality; example:
3. Hasty Moral Judgment: condemning people because of their faith, example:
4. Xenophobia: fear of strangers; example:
5. Prejudice: an irrational belief; example:
6. Racism: belief in the superiority of one race and inferiority of other races; example:
7. Discrimination: the unequal treatment of equals; example:
8. Ethnocentrism: the belief that my race, my creed, my group or my culture is the best; example:
9. Do I have a chronic sense of justice (fair play, equal treatment legally and socially)?
10. Am I being objective, that is open minded?
11. Have I gotten enough different Points Of Views, especially those different than mine?
   - Liberal Web Sites: The Nation, Counterpunch, ZNET, The Huffington Post
   - Conservative Web Sites: National Review, American Spectator, Human Events, Heritage Foundation
12. Have I been empathetic (“walk a mile in my shoes”) with strangers?

**AMERICAN CULTURE AND ART:**

*Classical (1600-1800), Romantic (1760-1870), Realism (1830-1900), Modernism (1900-1960)*

(1) A little *Histoire (History):* Like language, much of Art reflects the most important values of a culture. Also like language, Art is a way of communicating these values creatively to other people, and often through symbols. American art in its earliest days reflected both European and religious concepts. Most Pilgrims and Puritans disliked religious art because of a fear of idolatry. Among them, however, were the Limners, anonymous painters who painted portraits of early American colonists in a primitive manner. They were early members of the Vernacular Tradition, self trained and demanding an artistic voice. In the 1700’s, American artists often used the Classical ideals of balance, harmony, and reason to frame their creativity. In this, they followed Ancient Greece and Rome, whose art set Classical art standards. American artists Benjamin West, John Singleton Copley, and John Trumbull were important artists of the 1700’s, and they generally imitated British masters and trends—generally Classical.

(2) On the other hand Vernacular Tradition showed itself as not content to imitate Classical or British models. It includes folk arts and crafts, songs, dancing, decoration, sewing, quilts, and plays. Often, it was democratic, of the people, and, a little later, it made use of technology to spread itself. Generally, this Tradition has shown a mistrust of the Elite, upper class approach to art and the refinement such a class demands of art. The Vernacular often comes from self taught artists. Worshipping the practical, it generally loves to create or embellish everyday things, from quilts to bridges, from railroad engines to Chevy Malibus, from tagging walls to Reality TV, from Rock n’ Roll to American Idiot—oops, Idol. Paul Revere’s crude, Limner-like drawing of the Boston Massacre showed how this Tradition could also be a powerful force in the struggle for justice.

(3) The Vernacular Tradition was enriched by the many diverse cultures inhabiting America. Native Americans had their own dynamic artistic traditions. Pottery, song, dance, carving, architecture, and clothe-costume making were important to their artists and enriched every aspect of their lives. Slaves also brought a rich inheritance into the cultural mix, although the severe limits on their freedom hampered their creativity. Also Europeans, Asians, women and other members of America’s diverse population added to the wild brew of creativity and used song, dance, poetry, prose, quilting, tombstones, home building, and the visual arts to enhance their lives and to portray significant aspects of life.

**FOR CLASS**

1. The philosopher Nietzsche said, “Life without music would be unbearable.” An American version of this insight might be, “Life without music and art would” (be intensively obtuse, suck).
2. Around 1800, the (Romantic, Realist) Movement influenced most artists in Europe and many in America. Werewolves, cannibalism, weird murders, Dracula, gray haired college professors and (Frankenstein, Sponge Bob) are examples.
3. Other examples of Romantic Movement are such things: Last of the Mohicans, horror stories, science fiction, and weird drug tales, etc.. The America writer Edgar Allan (Poe, Popo) was important and most odd.
4. Among other things, the Romantic Movement stressed the heroic, the strange, the exotic, the terrifying, and the ecstatic. It focused on emotions, a (gut, gonad) level way of experiencing life.
5. (Landscape, Portrait) painting, especially of the West, was an important visual part of the Romantic Movement in America. Wild exotic vistas conjured up awe and beauty, which Romantics loved.

6. George Catlin and several other painters portrayed the lives of Indians in the (1800’s, 1900’s)

7. Photography, starting in the (1830’s, 1930’s), and journalism were two of the things which helped to create the cultural and artistic movement called (Realism, Modernism) in the mid 1800’s.

8. (Realists, Retroism) stressed the common place experiences of everyday people; photography and journalism strongly influenced visual arts. Mark (Twitty, Twain) was a Regionalist Realist writer.

9. (Realist, Dadaist) painters such as Winslow Homer and Alfred Waud captured how the Civil War affected everyday Americans. Vinnie Ream was a (female, frantic) sculptor, who, only 18, won fame by sculpting a marble statue of the standing Abe Lincoln. She was the first female to get an art commission.

10. Many Americans tend to (prefer, despise) Realism in their arts (ie=Reality TV). The Vernacular is still the most potent force in American art. Think of the resume of the musicians of the last song you downloaded.

11. (Modernists, Post Modernists) in the early 20th century generally despised (Cell phones, Realism).

12. (Modernists, Post Modernists) generally tried to reduce forms to simple lines or color patterns and tried to avoid the story telling, (3, 10) dimensional aspects of hated Realism.

13. (Modernists, Post modernists) in the 1950’s decided to use Realism as a style but to combine it with an often sarcastic or humorous use of (Popop, Pop) Culture.

14. You are (always, never) sarcastic. Your beloved Professor is (rarely, eternally) sarcastic.

RELIGION AND AMERICAN DIVERSITY/JUSTICE

(1) A LITTLE HISTOIRE: Religion was a crucial part of life for most of the 6 to 10 million Native Americans living in what would become the U.S. in 1500. Generally, they believed that everything is part of, or is inhabited by, a spiritual energy. Most had shamans, men or women, who, through dreams or trance, acted as go-betweens, serving both the human and spirit realms. Religion informed every aspect of life in a complex way that defies easy generalizations, yet most believed that their land was inhabited or visited by their ancestors and that respect for all life, even for hunted animals, was required as a debt to Spirit who created and sustained all life. In their sacred stories humor, embodied in Trickster figures, is a key aspect.

(2) The European invasions brought vastly different religious systems to the Americas. These systems were portable, based on a creed (statement of belief), and could be used to justify and even sanctify the invasions. Most of the Europeans were Christians, that is, they believed in the doctrine of the Trinity. The Main Split among Christians was caused by the Reformation (1517), when Martin Luther began a process which would break Catholic Europe into Catholic and Protestant parts. Catholics revere the Pope as the Vicar of Christ; Protestants do not. Most of the early Colonists to (what would become) America were Protestants (i.e. the Pilgrims and Puritans), though Maryland had many Catholic settlers. Canada (settled by the French) and Spanish America were Catholic. Early British Settlers were often religious zealots, some intent on converting Indians. The American colonies by 1750 probably had the most literate society in the world; both men and women could read at rates higher than those in Europe. Why did the Americans want to read so much? They wanted, as Luther had preached, to read the Bible for themselves.

(3) In 1787, most countries in the world had a state religion and to be a fully participating citizen, you had to belong to the official church. Otherwise, you would be punished. However, many of the 55 men who went to Philadelphia to write the Constitution were wary of religious interference in government, and government interference in religion. The Constitution established the first government with no state sanctioned church, a breakthrough in the fight for religious toleration and justice. This is codified in the First Amendment to the Constitution which forbids the government from establishing an official religion. This tremendous freedom has been a source of many other ideas of justice.

(4) Since colonial days, American religions have had to struggle with the Great American Religious Dilemma: Material Abundance. William Penn, a devout Quaker, who founded Pennsylvania, built the largest house in Philadelphia, enjoying the riches of America. Many other believers in the last two and half centuries have also succumbed to America’s Materialism. And over this time, American religions have continually had to struggle to balance two opposite and attractive forces: love of stuff (Materialism) and Spiritualism. All great religious teachings warn against Mammon (greed) and love of stuff, but unlike most other countries, America has been able to pour its bounty on millions of believers. Only in America can preachers and ministers own limos and mansions and still talk about the sins of the flesh to their congregations; only in America can watching TV count as a spiritual experience. Organized religions can be great instruments of love and justice; they can also be bastions of ruthless ethnocentrism and hotbeds of willful ignorance, especially in regard to science.

(5) Other aspects of American religious are more hopeful. Immigrants continually enrich America’s diverse heritage with their religions. The Vernacular Tradition has ensured that people can always create their own spiritual paths and many have in America. The Church of Latter Day Saints, founded by Joseph Smith, is one of the best examples of this. In addition, throughout American history, many believers have used their faith to fight to end slavery, or to end the exploitation of children as workers, or to curb domestic violence, or to stop an unjust war, and for dozens of other issues of justice.
1. Today, about 77% of all Americans are (Catholics, Christian) and about one in (ten, four) are Catholics. About what percentage of all Americans claim to be Protestant? (32% 52%)

2. About (3% 19%) Americans are atheists. How is an atheist different from an agnostic?

3. How many non Christians have been elected President? (2 Zero), How many Catholics?

4. One of the oldest European religious traditions in America is the Jewish Faith has three major subgroups, Orthodox (Fundamentalists), Conservative (Middle of the Roaders), and Reform (Liberals). Do other religions, especially in America, seem have similar patterns in their believers?

5. An immigrant to America from (Japan, Malaysia) would more than likely practice one or both of Shinto and Buddhism. On the other hand, a majority of Korean immigrants to America practice the faith which believes in the Doctrines of Three Persons in one God.

6. Generally, most Native American religions teach that all things are spiritually connected; however, their ceremonies involving (penitence, peyote) have been outlawed in many cases, unlike other religious ceremonies involving snakes, wine, or other bizarre or unusual substances/events. Is this just?

7. Most Hispanic Americans adhere to the belief that the Pope is the Vicar of Christ and are members of the (Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, Unitarian, Catholic) church. How will this affect ESPN in 2050?

8. In the world there are about (1.2 Billion 60 million) Muslims; in America, there are 1.8 to 6 million.

9. The Qur'an (also spelt Koran) is the holy book of one of the fastest growing religions in America and the world. Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam teaches charity, love and peace to its adherents; it is also the most (economically, racially) diverse religion in America. 2/3’s are foreign born.

10. In my opinion, (dogs, cats, or professors) will not get into heaven.

11. About 1.5 million Americans worship Shiva and practice (Hinduism, the Sikh tradition). It does not proselytize.

12. Immigrants from Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Sudan, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan, and Iran would more than likely practice (Islam, Buddhism). Which of these is the largest Islamic country, population wise?

13. Early settlers in America often invoked God in their wars with Indians, and in the last century many Presidents believed God was on America’s side in various wars. What world religion as part of its tradition teaches killing as a sacred duty?

14. According to recent polls, who pray more and go to church more, men or women? (Who is Holier?)

15. American immigrants from what country are likely to practice “Feng shui” and Daoism?

16. “Hei’au” and “kahuna” are “temple” and “priest” in what religious tradition of America?

17. For many Inuit, Native Americans and Hawaiians, who follow the traditional belief system, where is the Holy Land? For Buddhists? For Muslims? For Hindus? For Baptists? For Jews? For Catholics?

18. Do spirits still speak to Native Americans and Hawaiians today? What is superstition?

19. Islam is divided into two major groups, the Shi’a and the Sunnis. Like Catholics and Protestants, Shi’a and Sunnis share many of the same beliefs. However, like Europe in the 1500’s and 1600’s, the Middle East is often riven by disputes and conflicts between these two branches of Islam. In America, they do not seem to be as contentious.

20. With more than 13 million members world wide and 6.7 million Americans, the Mormon church tells its members (which are on average healthier than other Americans) to avoid what substances?

**WORK AND JUSTICE**

**Phase One;** Hunter-gathers: small bands of humans hunt and live off grains and nuts for hundreds of thousands of years

**Phase Two;** Farming: c. 6000 BCE; settled communities; cities, surplus; complex cultures: art, writing, religion, politics, etc.

**Phase Three;** The Industrial Revolution c. 1800: machines, esp. railroads and factories, redefine human life; radical break; the clock; post Civil War: workers militant, labor war

**Phase Four;** c. 1970’s Post Industrial: Information and technology changes / accelerates life; Globalism and outsourcing; middle class and working class in the developed world severely threatened by computers and cheap labor.

(1) The Protestant Work Ethic is a code of morals based on the principles of thrift, discipline, and hard work. Some believe it started in the 16th century, and some believe it still shapes American attitudes. In early, mainly Protestant America, success in the commercial world tended to assure the individual that he or she was in fact in a state of grace because God had smiled on his or her hard work and thrill and blessed these endeavors with material success (Materialism).

(2) The Protestant work ethic, the Industrial, Revolution, and America’s natural wealth of resources and land transformed America into a dynamic and incredibly materialistic culture. But the wealth was not distributed always according to merit; often it was based on land bubbles and other scams. Still, working class people, if they were white, aggressive and industrious, probably had a better chance to succeed in America in the 1800’s than elsewhere. By 1850, many eastern cities were establishing industries and these required large, unskilled work forces, which destroyed the old craft system. Before the development of labor unions, individual laborers had almost no voice in determining their wages, hours, or working conditions. There was a plentiful supply of labor, and employers could easily replace any worker who threatened to quit. The competition for jobs forced poor people to work under almost any conditions. Workers formed unions because their bargaining power as a group was greater than that of individuals. If all the employees in a factory or other business stopped work, it would be
difficult to replace them. But early unions faced strong opposition. Courts regarded the first attempts at group bargaining as illegal, and employers refused to recognize unions as the representatives of workers. Some important 19th century labor conflicts:

1877: the Great Railroad strike; first nation wide strikes; riots, Federal Troops,
1886: The Haymarket Riot; a bomb, Anarchism and labor violence; four hung
1892: Homestead Strike: Wage Cut Causes strike at steel mill; violence, death, union loss.
1894: Pullman strike; Pres. Cleveland sent Federal troops to protect property and crush the strikers.
(3) By 1900, America was the strongest industrial power on earth, created to a large extent by the gifted and ruthless group of business leaders often called “the Robber Barons.” Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan and John Rockefeller were brilliant, ruthless business warlords; later in life, they also gave much to charities. At this time, Social Darwinism said no matter what your race or ethnic background, you will succeed or fail because of your efforts and abilities; those who don’t work hard, fall; you get what you deserve. Life is an endless struggle that leads to survival and triumph of the Fittest and extinction of the weak. Naturally, the Robber Barons supported this philosophy, which partially explained their success. Sheer cunning and ruthlessness, and connections, also explains it. For example, in the early 1900’s more than 2 million children worked six days a week, 12 hours each, often for the Robber Barons or their subsidiary companies. Children were maimed, abused, underpaid, and controlled almost like slaves. Brutal child labor—-in mines, mills, etc— only ended after decades of agitation by working rights advocates like Mother Jones.

(4) Industrial America became a mass culture, buying objects created in factories for mass consumption, such as telephones, bikes, phonographs, shoes, and Model T’s—all were painted black until the 1920’s. By then, America had become the most sophisticated Consumer society on earth. Consumerism is a complex system of constantly creating, usually through advertisement, an endless craving for more “stuff.” Worth is shown by the quantity and quality of “stuff” you own. Daily, Americans swim in a media sea of “pimping”: propaganda-like advertising, meant to get them to crave after new, better, bigger “stuff.” Today, about $200 billion a year is spent on ads, mostly on tv, for newer, better, bigger stuff that will magically improve your hair, sex life, sense of self worth, standing with your peers, height, weight, etc.

(5) Workers, who were also consumers, had a rough time in industrial America. Cheap labor, in the form of endless immigrants, and state and federal governments that heavily supported employers and despised unions, made the lives of industrial workers very precarious. The Great Depression, which began in 1929, however, seriously scared politicians and capitalists, which is why the labor movement began to be more widely accepted during the 1930’s. The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 and other laws required employers to bargain with unions. By 1945, more than a third of all nonagricultural laborers were union members. Today, organized labor is still a powerful economic force, even though the percentage of workers who belong to a union has declined sharply. The highest percentage of union members are in construction, manufacturing, mining, and transportation industries. The labor movement, along with economic progress, has given workers a higher standard of living. Compared to past laborers, modern workers earn higher wages, work shorter hours, are better protected against accidents, and receive more fringe benefits. However, some people believe that unions are too large and too powerful.

(6) For example, in the 1990’s, the U.S. government took control of several unions, including the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The government did so in an attempt to reduce union corruption. Its goals included protecting union funds and guaranteeing the fair election of union officers. In early 2000, a group of doctors in Detroit voted to unionize and be represented in labor relations and contract negotiations by Physicians for Responsible Negotiation (PRN). PRN is a national labor organization formed by the American Medical Association. It is the first independent national labor organization serving physicians only.

FOR CLASS
1. Upton Sinclair wrote The (Jungle, Money Pit) in the Robber Barons era. It exposed cruel working conditions in Chicago. If you worked in one of Carnegie’s steel mills and lost an arm in an accident, you lost your job and got no compensation.
2. Samuel Gompers, Mother Jones, Eugene Debs, and Big Bill Haywood were important figures in the Labor Rights movement in the (late 1800’s and early 1900’s, 1980’s). Samuel Gompers was a founder of the American Federation of Labor. Mother Jones worked especially for (CEO’s, children’s) rights.
3. Striking miners in (Colorado, Fresno) were shot at and chained to poles overnight. Strike breakers and cops frequently smashed the (heads, carnations) of the strikers.
4. The five day work week, the eight hour day, pensions and Unemployment Compensation came about because of (fierce union struggles for justice, the enlightened American business owners).
5. At home, among friends, and at church, people practice one sort of morality; at work, is it the same?
6. Where do working people work more per year, America or Europe? Where do working people take fewer vacations, America or Europe?
7. The number of Americans who eat at a fast food restaurant once a day is about one in (4, 16).
8. What is “outsourcing”? Why is it done?
9. In France all workers—-as mandated by law—receive (1, 5) week(s) of paid vacation a year.
10. Nurses, those who care for sick, the elderly, the blind, the disabled, and those who care for the mentally retarded are...
generally underpaid compared to those who are paid ludicrous sums of money to put a brown spheroid through a hoop. Or hit a smaller one with a tapering stick. Or catch one with threads. Why is that?

11. Who will be more directly important to you and your family, nurses or NBA stars?

12. Your favorite fruit is what? In California, what sort of person does the dirty, backbreaking, low paying job of picking your favorite fruit?

13. During World War 2, American men went in the army. To help farmers across the South and southwest, the “bracero” program was started. What was the “bracero program”?

14. (Cesar Chavez, Miguel Martinez) led the fight for justice of migrant workers in California, and he helped to create the United Farm Workers of America. Dolores (Huerta, Hurtyou) was also an important leader in the struggle for justice for migrant workers.

15. Traditionally, work among Native Americans (around 2.8 million members presently) usually enhanced the security and prosperity of the group because individuals rarely owned land, most possessions were held in common. Work outside the group was often hard. Why?

16. Today, (Race, Class) is the key variable in quality of life, that is the length of life and comforts of life.

17. If you can’t be born into a rich family (top 1% owns as much as the bottom 90%), the best way to acquire wealth--besides marrying a rich spouse--(legally) in America is what?

18. College today costs (3-4 times as much, roughly the same) as 35 years ago.

19. What debt will you have when you graduate from this sacred university? $______ Over their lifetime, college students on average earn how much more compared to a friend who has not gone to college?

20. Success in education means higher earnings over a lifetime. Why are many Hispanics and Native Americans at the bottom rung in the American economy?

21. In terms of worker rights and benefits, America was (behind, ahead of) Europe in 1920. And today.

22. Why is your health connected to whether you work or not? According to recent studies, about 18000 people a year in America die from lack of health care. Why is America the only industrialized country insane enough to connect health care to greed?

23. Globalism--the interconnectedness of the modern world--allows complex integration of various components of a corporation; corporations can easily pick where to build factories or where to outsource a need for employees. Globalism, immigration, and outsourcing make workers’ lives (harder, fun).
PART DOS (2):
EDUCATION IN MULTICULTURAL AMERICA

(1) Generally, Education has two uses: philosophical and practical. Socrates said, “The unexamined life is not worth living,” and education should give an individual the skills to examine him/herself and the society in which he/she lives. Practically speaking, an educated class is the nervous system of any culture and is essential to a coordinated and integrated culture. In your estimation, the primary purpose of education is: a) to stimulate an abiding thirst for self-knowledge and wisdom b) to create an obedient and easy to control population c) to hurt you d) to give you the skills you need to make big bucks

(2) America came into existence after a revolution in literacy and education had begun. Literacy was crucial for many early Colonists, who wanted to read their Bibles for themselves. The Vernacular Tradition found an advocate in Horace Mann, who, in the 1830’s, established the first public school system in Massachusetts. This spread across the country and in 1862, Lincoln signed the Homestead Act which set aside land to pay for regional colleges. After the Civil War granted blacks full citizenship rights, the harsh realities of life in America caused black thinkers to debate the role of education in black life. In the late 19th century, Ph.D. and famous social critic, W.E.B. Dubois, debated Booker T. Washington over the educational and social prospects of blacks. Washington believed that blacks must first secure economic security and then pursue social and civil equality; Dubois demanded blacks have full social, political, cultural and civic equality, without which they would never get economic security.

(3) As a consequence of mis-education and ignorance, Jim Crow laws, first developed in a few Northern states in the early 1800’s, were adopted by many Southern states in the late 1800’s. These segregation laws required that whites and blacks use separate public facilities, especially schools. No detail in Jim Crow laws was too small. At one time, for example, Oklahoma required that whites and blacks use separate telephone booths. Arkansas specified separate gambling tables, and many courts provided separate Bibles for swearing in witnesses. Jim Crow Laws made blacks second class citizens in America. In addition to being denied a first rate education, they were denied access to standard housing, railroad and bus seating, swimming pools, dining facilities, theaters, health care, water fountains, college, and many other aspects of American culture. Severe underfunding of black schools crippled generations of blacks.

(4) Ignorance and hatred, reinforced through public mis-education, fostered such hostile circumstances across the South that the Great Migration began. This was the movement of blacks from the South in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s; they moved to the north and the upper midwest. On a positive note, this movement enriched American creativity with the spread of Jazz; on the negative side, prejudice was widespread also in the North, though not as virulent and violent as the in the South. Popular Culture often plays on ignorance and can increase prejudice because the unexamined life is always attractive, and ignorance is a fertile ground for hatred. This is most clearly shown in D.W. Griffith’s famous film, Birth of a Nation, which depicted life in the South after the Civil War. Griffith’s film depicted freed slaves as dangerous savages and Reconstruction (rebuilding the South with freed slaves as full citizens) as a disaster. When the film was released in 1915, it was a number one box office smash and President Wilson strongly endorsed it. Sadly, public American education from 1900 until the 1960’s generally agreed with Griffith’s negative interpretation of blacks’ role in American history.

(5) Blacks encountered such ignorance in the North and South, abetted by such popular expressions of racism as Griffith’s film, that they initiated a dynamic and creative Vernacular response in New York city, the Harlem Renaissance. Here, in the first third of the 1900’s, black scholars, poets, singers, dancers, artists and social critics created the Harlem Renaissance; they radically challenged American culture and American history as taught in schools and in popular culture, in films like Griffith’s. Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes were black poets and Zora Neale Hurston and James Baldwin were black authors; all took part in the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance was a model for other minorities who demanded justice in the 1960’s and beyond. In the 1960’s Women, Gays, Hispanics, and the Native Americans imitated its ideas. These groups demanded a more accurate and positive interpretation of their roles in public education.

(6) Naturally, black objected mightily to the Jim Crow laws and the prejudice in American education. Returning black veterans of World War I and World War 2 encountered these horrors after fighting for America. But there was an even worse consequence than injustice from mis-education: from 1882 until 1951, 3437 blacks were lynched. Back in 1898, the Democratic Party had refused to endorse an anti-lynching law. General American education, or mis-education, perpetuated the theme of Birth of A Nation: blacks were dangerous, different, inferior and incapable of being true Americans. Then and now, a person learns to be a racist, someone who has been trained not to examine his/her prejudices. Lynching was the most hideous expression of mis-education.

For Class
1. (History, Mathematics) is rated the worst course by high school students. However, any rational person must admit that Algebra and Calculus make no sense at all and need to be eliminated.
2. As blacks demonstrated, to have equality in the present, a group must make a case based in part on the accurate telling of the group’s role in the (Past, bathrooms). This history must be taught to school children and become part of the nation’s story.
3. This debate over the teaching of a more inclusive history explains the current ferocious debate over history textbooks. Gays are fighting hard to get their history accurately included in text books. This would help them in their struggle for justice.
5. (Hispanics, Asians) make up nearly half of all Californian students, roughly 2.5 million students; from grades one through twelve, 65% work below grade level, and in high school, 80% work below grade level. Why do these students often do so poorly?
6. In the 1960’s, Native Americans averaged about 8 1/2 years of formal education. Today, the majority of these young people graduate from high school, and about 9 percent of all who are 25 years of age and older have a college degree in law, medicine, etc.. Generally, why do Native Americans and Hawaiians not do well in our school system?
7. In 1979, children in the top fifth of American society were four times as likely to get a college education as one from the bottom fifth; today, that number is (2 times, 10 times) because education has become much more (fun, expensive).
8. To lower costs, what do you think of dropping professors’ salaries 10% and having a tipping system? (Good lecture, $5, bad lecture nada). How would you deal with the financial crisis facing this college?
9. In some states the high school drop out rate is over 50%. Why do you suppose this is true?
10. The American child spends about 1/2 hour per (day, week) in meaningful conversation with parents. Communication is key.
11. The more educated a person is, the more likely he/she is to belong to the Republican Party. Why?
12. In many places in the developed world, college is free or almost free; is this a good social investment?
13. What determines to a large extent a student’s success: race, sex, socio-economic status?
14. The S.A.T. Test really measures a student’s (class background, racial background).
15. The American college student (i.e., you) studies, on average, (5, 20) hours per week.
16. The American college student (i.e., you) spends, on average, (5, 20) hours per day on his/her cellphone+ laptop. Do you think these distractions help or hinder students in the development of the discipline necessary to succeed in college?
17. What is “No Child Left (Bedazzled, Behind)”?
18. (Chinese Americans, German Americans) on average spent twice that amount of time studying and are far over-represented in America’s elite schools and graduate schools.
19. Are being educated and having a college degree the same thing?
20. Is guacamole the greatest food ever?
21. About one (fourth, fifteenth) of all Americans have earned degrees.
22. Today, most students who earn M.D.’s, or degrees in Law and Dentistry are (women, lucky).

**IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION**

(1) THE BANK’S SCALE of Immigrant Experience. Professor Banks was a sociologist who wanted to categorize immigrant experiences into major categories. He came up with five: (1) CAPTIVITY= the immigrant feels imprisoned by the new culture; (2) ENCAPSULATION—the immigrant remains within his/her enclave; (3) CLARIFICATION OF ETHNIC IDENTITY: a positive view of the immigrant experience; (4)BI-ETHNICITY: the immigrant works and thrives in his/her enclave and the larger society; (5) MULTI-ETHNICITY: an ideal, what we should all strive for. This scale is based on EXPERIENCE and is not necessarily chronological.

(2) From 1820 until 1975, around 47 million people came to America; 35.9 million from Europe. During this time the top five countries supplying immigrants were Italy, Mexico, England, Ireland and Germany. In the mid 1800’s, Americans in the Know Nothing Party, a Nativist Party, attacked immigrants, especially the Irish, who were often called “dirty, lazy, and uncivilized drunken breeders”. This attack set the pattern for subsequent attacks on immigrants: negative stereotyping and demonizing. Immigrants have been frequently attacked in American history during periods of economic downturns. Such hateful attitudes affected the Chinese immigrants to the West in the 1800’s. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which stopped Chinese emigration to the USA. The Chinese had helped to build the railroad system of the West and they had proved themselves to be incredibly effective and hard working laborers. Their labor benefited the entire country, but created intense hostility among white workers. White workers, and the demagogues who led them, benefited from the Exclusion Act. In 1908, a "gentlemen's agreement" between the United States and Japan provided a temporary solution to immigration problems. Japan agreed to stop emigration of its workers, and the United States agreed to halt discriminatory immigration laws against its people. The extremely conservative Immigration Act of 1924 prohibited the entry of all Asian laborers. Between 1890 and 1920 most immigrants came from Southern Europe. From 1881 to 1920, almost 23.5 million immigrants poured into the United States. When immigrants willingly give up their previous culture/language and try to become as “American” as possible this is called assimilation, “the melting pot” approach. When immigrants attempt to maintain their culture and language in a face to face, “salad bowl” approach to the Dominant American Culture this is called, “acculturalization.” Culture shock is a depression, caused by homesickness, that affects many immigrants, who find the new culture too confusing and hostile.

(3) Immigration law has often been used to protect or to help American businesses and workers; these laws have also reflected prejudices and foreign policy goals. Rarely have these laws been neutral instruments for aiding immigration from across the world. A 1917 law required adult immigrants to show that they could read and write. The law also excluded immigrants from an area known as the Asiatic Barred Zone, which covered most of Asia and most islands in the Pacific. The Immigration Act of 1924, which took effect in 1929, severely limited the number of immigrants from outside the Western
Hemisphere. The distribution of immigrants from different countries was based on percentages of the nationalities making up the white population of the United States in 1920. The formula ensured that most immigrants would be from such countries as Germany, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. This reflected conservative political beliefs of the 1920’s. After World War 2, the Immigration and Nationality Act, also called the McCarran-Walter Act, established quotas (allowable numbers) for Asian countries and other areas from which immigrants had been excluded. The law, for the first time, made citizenship available to people of all origins.

(4) In 1965, the most liberal immigration act was passed. Its amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act ended quotas based on nationality. The 1965 amendments produced major changes in patterns of immigration to the United States. The percentage of immigrants from Europe and Canada dropped, while that of immigrants from Asia and the West Indies leaped dramatically. Until 1960, Europeans made up 60% of all immigrants; by the 1990’s that number had dropped to around 10%. President LBJ was mainly responsible for this change in 1965. However, many immigrants to America did not go through the authorized process and lived in the United States without documentation. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 offered amnesty (pardon) to illegal aliens who had lived in the United States continuously since before Jan. 1, 1982, or who had worked at least 90 days at farm labor in the United States between May 1, 1985, and May 1, 1986. The act also set penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

(5) Immigration trends continue to change, but the nature and character of most immigrants remains fairly similar. This is shown in a quote from the 2003 book, Equality Defined: Race, Ethnicity and Immigration: Each new contingent of immigrants—in the 1630’s, 1840’s, 1920’s, or 1990’s—serves to refresh values and characteristics in America. ...Immigration, yesterday and today, is the business of the young.... Immigrants also tend to be hard workers....More than peoples they left in the Old World, immigrants often nursed streaks of rebellion...Immigrants tend to be optimistic risk takers....[M]ost immigrants have been a pragmatic people, willing to stretch or break the rules in order to get to the U.S. and stay here.

(6) In addition, immigrants often regard their homeland in different ways. The homeland can be seen as a bitter, impoverished and unjust place, a home from which escape was the best possible option. Others regard the homeland with nostalgia, a cultural haven of wise ancestors. Two black poets wrote about their homeland centuries apart. Wheatley celebrates fleeing “pagan” Africa while Cullen wonders about Africa, and what positive aspects might have existed there for blacks.

**Poems on Black Immigration to America**

1. **Phillis Wheatley** (1753-84): “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (1773)
   
   Twas mercy brought me from my pagan land
   Taught my benighted soul to understand
   That there’s a God, that there’s a Savior too:
   Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
   Some view our sable race with scornful eye.
   “Their color is a diabolic dye.”
   Remember, Christians, negroes, black as Cain,
   May be refined and join in the angelic train.

2. **Countee Cullen** (1903-1946), From “Heritage” (1925):
   
   What is Africa to me: Copper sun or scarlet sea, Jungle star or jungle track,
   Strong bronzed men, or regal black woman from whose loins I sprang,
   When the birds of Eden sang?
   One three centuries removed from the scenes his fathers loved,
   Spicy grove, cinnamon tree, what is Africa to me?
   Quaint, outlandish heathen gods black men fashion out of rods,
   Clay and brittle stone, in a likeness like their own.
   My conversion came high priced: I belong to Jesus Christ,
   Preacher of humility, heathen gods are nothing to me...
   Lord, I fashion strange gods too, daring even to give You
   Dark despairing features...

**FOR CLASS**

1. Today, Asians now make up around (35% , 50%) of all immigrants to the U.S.A.
2. Immigrants from (Rome, Cuba) dominate Florida, which has an odd immigration policy: Sandy Feet!
3. Today about one in (five, ten) people living in the U.S.A. is foreign born.
4. (Hispanics, Asians) make up around 1/4 of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.
6. Around three fourths of the would be immigrants apprehended by the American Border Patrol, because they lack proper documentation, come from (Mexico, Canada).
7. The U.S.A. city with the largest illegal immigrant population (about 1 to 2 million) is (Los Angeles, Boise); why is this number only an approximation?
8. Snake Heads, which are gangs in (China, Boise), have created a network to bring undocumented aliens into the U.S.A.. The cost per Chinese immigrant is around ($1000, $50000).

9. Coyotes are guides who bring undocumented aliens out of (Mexico, Canada), which has contributed the largest group of undocumented aliens living in America today.

10. On January 1, 1994, NAFTA became law. What effect did this have on illegal immigration from Mexico?

11. In 1988, Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants received $20000 for past injustices. What did they suffer? What stipulation did they have to meet to get the dinero?

12. Today, approximately how many foreigners are here without proper documents?

13. The current immigration debate often centers on the idea of “amnesty” for illegal immigration. “Amnesty” means what? Do you think this is a valid part of the solution to immigration crisis?

14. About 25 states have passed laws making English their official language. (Language is key to culture; threats to language—especially by immigrants—are direct threats to culture.

15. Why have the recent attempts at Immigration reform failed?

AMERICAN GENDER: Feminism and Homosexuality in Multicultural America

(1) Gender is defined as one’s sex as it affects one’s status, behavior, self-image and roles. Most cultures base male and female gender on biology. A few cultures, however, offered a Third Option. The Berdache Tradition among Native Americans and the Aikane Tradition among Hawaiians offered a Third Option to their people; in other words, gender wasn’t simply defined by biology. In these cultures males were allowed to be feminine and females were allowed to be masculine. Another version of the Third Option is the belief that women are not inferior and should not be subordinate to men; this Third Option claims women are equal to men and should have the same opportunities as men to fully develop themselves. Throughout six thousand years of history, males have dominated most cultures, and maleness has controlled everything from politics to religion. Beginning in the twentieth century and spreading around the world with increased impact since World War 2, the idea of female equality is becoming a goal in many places. Of course, resistance to male and female equality is widespread.

(2) In America the struggle for women’s rights has a long history. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Margaret Fuller, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Alice Paul were key members of the struggle in the 19th and early 20th century. After a century of struggle, the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 gave the vote to white women. World War 2 exposed many women to industrial jobs and responsibility. Betty Friedan was a leading feminist in the 50’s and 60’s, and Susan Faludi is one today. A feminist believes that women should have full citizenship rights, including political, economic and social equality with men. Some men and women regard this as a dangerous idea and this sentiment prevails in several arenas of modern life.

(3) For example, women generally are not allowed to serve in combat units of the U.S.A’s military. The military doctrine of Unit Cohesion demands that any threat to the comradery which governs combat units be eliminated; it is widely believed that women in combat units would negatively impact Unit Cohesion. A few women in the military are pilots in combat aircraft and helicopters; some serve in combat ships, but generally they are kept out of direct combat roles, especially on the ground. Also for the sake of Unit Cohesion, Gays are not allowed to serve openly in the military. Instead, they are governed by the policy of “Don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t harass.” Many members of the Gay Rights community dislike this policy which discriminates against gays who serve their country and are forced to lie about their personal lives because of the policy.

Homosexuality is a preference for affiliation and sexual activity with a person of the same sex, and many advocates of justice for Gays believe that American culture, like Native American and Hawaiian cultures, should allow the Third Option to those so inclined. The Stonewall Riots in a New York club in 1969 began the Gay Rights Movement. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association declared that homosexuality was not a a mental disorder or sickness. The Democratic political party is usually seen as friendlier to Gays, while the Republican Party has generally denounced the “Gay life style.” However, a small group of economically driven Log Cabin Republicans are gay Republicans who support this party for financial reasons.

(4) Americans continue to be very confused about gender and sexuality. Many parents are uncomfortable discussing sex with their children, and some parents are adamantly opposed to sexuality based on biology being taught to their children. On the other hand, sexuality (attractiveness) is pushed as one of the most important aspects of life. Pop culture and advertisement endlessly remind children and adults that being sexy is one of the key goals in life. On the other hand, most religions constantly harp on the evil of lust and some adults endlessly hawk the real dangers of STD’s and AIDS to young Americans as a way of scaring them into abstinence. Added to this is the reality that in a society based on Information Technology, not industry, males and females compete for similar jobs. If strength and courage are no longer key elements in many masculine careers, what defines a male? It seems that as a culture, America can’t decide if sexuality is positive or negative, or what makes a real man.

FOR CLASS

1. What is sodomy? What is Homophobia?
2. Where do more teenagers on average have sex at an earlier age, America or France?
3. On average, for every dollar earned by a man at a job, a woman in a similar position earns how much?
4. U.S. teenagers have STD’s at (the same rate, 5 to 6 times that) of European teenagers; why?
5. About 10-20 million Americans claim to be gay in a population of about (200, 300) millions.
6. How do many young males in American try to demonstrate their “maleness/masculinity”?
7. Blacks in Birth of a Nation were portrayed unfairly and stereotypically; before the 1990’s, were gays generally stereotyped in negative ways in film, tv and Pop Culture?
8. What percentage of the people you know would vote for a qualified female for president: more than 50% or less than 50%?
9. Who was Matthew Shepard?
10. Heterosexual adultery and financial problems cause most divorces in America. Can “protecting” marriage by defining it as a union of a male and female defend marriage from these two problems?
11. Can you think of a product in which sexuality is used to make the product more desirable (not male enhancement products)?
12. In many religions, which subgroup is more likely to be demanding more openness to Gay issues: Fundamentalists, Middle of the Roaders, Liberalizers?
13. A majority of males believe consensual sex between unmarried adults is morally acceptable behavior. What about females?
14. Name a recent tv show or a film with a gay character:
15. How would you protect marriage from adultery and financial problems?
16. Is a state sanctioned marriage a secular contract or a sacrament (a religious decree) or both?
17. For Gays in general is Gay marriage more of a religious issue, or a civil rights issue?
18. Your first sexual encounter with another person occurred when you were (single, married).
19. What causes someone to become a homosexual? (genetic makeup, environment, choice, no scientifically proven and known reason).
20. The 1973 Supreme Court Decision, Roe v. Wade, declared that women have a right to what?
21. (More than a million, less than a million) abortions are performed every year in America.
22. What is the primary reason given for having an abortion?
23. How would you reduce abortions in America: education and health care, a total ban, executions?
24. The percentage of Americans who marry at least once is (60%, 90%).
25. Divorce, American style: every year there are approximately (one million, one thousand) divorces; in total, around (5%, 50%) of all American marriages end this way.
26. About (41%, 51%) of Americans are women.
27. Why are more and more women having out of wedlock children?
28. Why do women generally live longer than men?
29. Where are there more people over 100? What will you be like at 100?

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

(1) Ecology is the branch of science that deals with the relationships living things have to each other and to their environment. Scientists who study these relationships are called ecologists. Ecocentrism emphasizes all relationships as crucial to the earth. “Anthropo” means human. “Anthropocentrism” is the belief that the world and its resources are here primarily for human sustenance and comfort; consumerism is the extreme version of Anthropocentrism. Traditionally, Native Americans have had an immediate and reciprocal relationship with their natural environments. They defined themselves by the land and sacred places, and recognized a unity in their physical and spiritual universe. Their cosmologies connected them with all animate and inanimate beings. They were not ecologists—that is a modern term and concept.

(2) In the 19th century, such movements as Transcendentalism and Romanticism drew Americans' attention to the sacredness of nature, its beauty and harmony. (Daoism had similar notions in China.) By 1900, America had become the world's leading industrial power, whose enormous wealth was built on exploitation of natural resources. First the Conservation Movement and then the Environmental Movement challenged the unchecked wholesale abuse of America's natural resources. Conservation is the management, protection, and wise use of natural resources. During the early 1900's, conservation began to develop as a national movement in America. Its dominant theme was the wise use of natural resources, including plants and animals, for human benefit. Conservation and Environmentalism are not the same.

(3) In 1908, President Teddy Roosevelt brought together governors, federal officials, scientists, business executives, and conservation leaders for a White House conference to adopt national policies for the use of natural resources. The conference approved the principle of multiple uses in the management of national forests and parks. The principle of multiple use provided that public lands be managed to serve many benefits. It thus protected these lands from being used solely or primarily for commercial development. Gifford Pinchot was a friend of Teddy’s and vital in establishing the Forest Service.

(4) The National Park Service was established in 1916, when the U.S. park system consisted of 37 areas. These areas included Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park. Today, it manages the approximately 390 areas of the National Park System. According to a recent national geographic article, the NPS is in dire need of economic help from the federal government, which has recently been indifferent to the money woes of the system. The National Park System and other federal and state programs protect land long recognized as having stunning features such as Yosemite or the Grand Canyon. Private and industrial interests have long challenged preservation of these places of natural beauty. In the 21st century, the struggle to keep these magnificent places open to the public and relatively pristine will be one of the central struggles for
environmental justice. Many National Parks are restricting use of cars in the parks, and in Yellowstone National Park there has been a battle over the use of snowmobiles.

(4) Perhaps another impetus for the expanding concerns about the environment, besides health and sustainability, is the almost universal recognition of beauty in nature. As society becomes more and more complex and technological, over stressed humans seem to need more of natural beauty and the way it soothes the soul.

(5) Heroic leaders in the 20th century struggle for Environmental sanity and Justice were John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Ansel Adams, Rachel Carson, and David Brower. John Muir (1838-1914), an explorer, naturalist, and writer, campaigned for the conservation of land, water, and forests in the United States. His efforts influenced Congress to pass the Yosemite National Park Bill in 1890 establishing both Yosemite and Sequoia national parks. Muir helped persuade his friend President Theodore Roosevelt to set aside 148 million acres of forest reserves. He founded the Sierra Club in 1892. Ansel Adams (1902-1984) was an American photographer, known for his dramatic photographs of the West. He took large pictures of landscapes that include mountains, forests, and rivers. Adams' interest in preserving wilderness areas also led him to become active in the conservation movement. Search his works on line; he was a Romantic, who used the Realist technology of the camera, to take Romantic— bleakly beautiful, gauntly exotic—photos. Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) was an American naturalist, wildlife biologist, author, and conservationist. He pioneered the application of ecological principles to wildlife management. An enthusiastic outdoorsman, he believed that people should enjoy wilderness areas for recreation. But he declared that the natural characteristics of such areas should be preserved as much as possible. Rachel Carson (1907-1964), a marine biologist, wrote Silent Spring in 1962, one of the most important environmental books in history. Its impact caused DDT to be outlawed in the United States and other pesticides to be limited around the world. Nevertheless, today Americans still use approximately 2.2 billion pounds of pesticides every year. Mountaineer and war hero, David Brower led the Sierra Club in the 1950's and 1960's in some of the most important battles over the environment. He and the Club blocked the damming of the Grand Canyon and pushed LBJ into creating Redwoods National Park on the northern California coast. A charismatic leader, Brower pioneered the use of modern media.

(6) In northern California, Julia Butterfly Hill lived in an old growth redwood, named “Luna”, for almost two years in the 1990's, drawing attention to the continued exploitation of the forests of the Pacific Northwest. She and former V. P. Al Gore represent some of the newer ecological views. Gore has especially paid attention to CO2 (Carbon Dioxide). CO2 is the thermometer of the planet; in the past, during climactic cycles average temperatures went up and down; whenever the planet heated up, CO2 amounts went up. According to the vast majority of climatologists, the earth is warming up, only this time, human activity is a significant contributor. This is the heart of the current debate on Global Warming in America; no other country has such a debate because the rest of the world accepts as scientifically established that human activity, creating immense amounts of CO2, is affecting the world. Justice, health, and sanity demand that the largest emitters of CO2, China and America, change their behavior, but that will hurt their economies. That is why the oil and coal industries are global warming DENIERS.

(7) From A.D. 1 to about 1800, the world population quadrupled from about 300 million to 1 billion. But since then, the population has multiplied six times to about 6 billion. Although the rate of growth is slowing, the world is expected to have approximately 11 billion people by 2100. Such a large increase in population will result in even greater demands for natural resources, especially clean water, clean air and healthy food. Today, between half and one third of the world’s people live on less than two dollars a day. Poverty and population rates are increasing fastest among the world’s poorest countries, and their governments will have a difficult time getting them clean air, clean water and healthy food.

FOR CLASS:
1. In the past 200 years, the United States has lost 50 percent of its wetlands and 90 percent of its northwestern old-growth forests. A decimated wetland contributed to what disaster in Louisiana?
2. What is a “clear cut”?
3. What country fuels all its vehicles on Sugar Cane: Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Tibet or New Zealand?
4. The bark beetle has destroyed millions of acres of forests in Canada and the USA. What does global warming have to do with this highly destructive beetle?
5. A great deal of Los Angeles’s water comes from where?
6. WHAT A WASTE: The average college student produces 640 pounds of solid waste each year, including 500 disposable cups and 320 pounds of paper, underwear.
7. Around (5%, 50%) of all automobile trips in the United States are under three miles, a distance that could be walked in less than one hour at no appreciable cost to the environment or pocketbook.
8. North Americans throw away millions of plastic bottles every day; plastic comes from where source?
9. In 1900 there were 100,00 tigers in the world, and today there are fewer than 6,000. Although their numbers have increased a little, there are probably less than 6,000 (funny professors, Blue Whales) alive today.
10. Recently the bald (professor, eagle) was taken off the Endangered Species List. Is this a good thing?
11. Generally, the citizens of wealthy, industrialized countries consume around (3, 30) times as much energy and resources as those of the Third World. Is this fair?
12. Frederick Olmstead designed what famous green area in the heart of New York City? What did he design in Yosemite?
13. Some people want Hetch Hetchy valley in Yosemite restored to its original condition. Today it is underwater and supplies water and electricity to San Francisco. To you, is natural beauty or the human need for electricity and water more important?

14. If ranchers in Idaho graze their cattle on public lands, and if wolves attack their herds, should cattlemen have a right to shoot and kill these endangered animals?

15. Crucial for the 21st Century are Environmental Justice Questions:
   - Who has access to, and use of, public lands and water, and for what purpose?
   - Why are pollutants regularly dumped in or around poorer neighborhoods?
   - What is the proper response to Global Warming?
   - If Globalism accelerates environmental degradation, what should be done?

**AFTER WORLD WAR TWO: HISPANICS AND BLACKS IN THE POPULAR ARTS**

(1) Since the 1940's, the music and dances of Latin America have "crossed over" into American culture. Mexican mariachi bands-small ensembles usually consisting of violins, guitars, and trumpets-have long enjoyed popularity in the United States. Some popular Cuban dances have included the bomba, the cha-cha-cha, the conga, the mambo, the rumba, and salsa. Much of the music and dancing was derived from the culture of African slaves who worked on West Indian sugar plantations from the early 1500's to the 1800's. The music has strong, syncopated (irregularly accented) rhythms. It features instruments of African and American Indian origin, including conga drums, claves, guiros, maracas, and marimbas.

(2) Latin American music has long been an important influence on the popular music of the United States. Since the 1950's, a number of Hispanic American rock music performers have gained widespread popularity, including Ritchie Valens, Carlos Santana, Gloria Estefan, and the group Los Lobos. Traditional Latin music has also attracted a large audience in the United States. One of the most popular performers is Celia Cruz. Known as la Reina de la Salsa (the Queen of Salsa), Cruz has performed for more than 40 years in both Cuba and the United States. Important Hispanic artists include John Valadez, Martin Ramirez, Frank Romero, and Arnaldo Roche.

PART THREE:
POLITICS AND THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE:

(1) Generally, Conservatives (Republicans) believe Justice is best served by individual choice; individuals should not and cannot be forced to endorse fairness or equality; such coercion by the government is counter productive and anti-American. The Republican Party is often seen as the Daddy Party (the party of self control and aggressive business practices); its goals include the idea of minimizing the government by minimizing taxes; it also stresses a strong defense, business virtues, deregulation of laws which interfere with business practices and individual freedom, and traditional morals. Often, Conservatives believe in freedom of choice as a way to advance freedom: when business owners freely realized they needed superb black athletes, they brought Jackie Robinson and other blacks into pro baseball. Fans freely chose to support this decision and in this way, choice in sports (an informal social mechanism) helped make America a more free society. This, not government mandates, is the better way to make America more just. 

12. Republican Presidents: LINCOLN, TEDDY ROOSEVELT, EISENHOWER, NIXON, REAGAN, BUSH I, BUSH II.

(2) On the other hand, Liberals (Democrats) generally believe Justice and equality must be enforced by the government, the only institution strong enough to stand up to the Big Dogs of Injustice; the “least among us” need institutional protection. The Democratic party is often portrayed as the Mommy Party (the party nurturing programs and diversity). Since the 1930’s, the Democratic party has emphasized a strong, activist Federal government to counter the power of corporations and unjust state governments; it has supported working people and unions, rights for minorities, protection for the environment and civil liberties. Generally, liberals believe that most Americans cannot stand up to powerful business interests and to corrupt state governments and that’s why they tend to believe in Formal Social Mechanisms. When the Supreme Court in 1954 ruled that separate but equal was unjust, liberals supported the federal government mandates which dismantled the apartheid educational system of this country and Jim Crow laws. They supported the Federal governments mandates in the 1960’s and 70’s to halt state governments and corporations from continued plundering of national resources for private profits. Liberals believe that government power, through mandates, should be actively used to impose a more fair set of rules on America. Democratic presidents: JACKSON, WILSON, Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), TRUMAN, JFK, KENNEDY, CARTER, CLINTON and OBAMA.

POLITICAL QUIZ
PUT YOUR RESPONSE TO EACH STATEMENT Agree (+2 +1 0 -1 -2) Disagree
1. America is the strongest and greatest country in the world; the Iraq war was a just war.
2. The root of social ills is moral decay, not systemic social inequality.
3. When the government creates a program, it usually mucks it up, and it becomes a financial and organizational fiasco.
4. Abortion is morally a sin and should be legally a crime.
5. Work is the essential thing in life because the American dream is based on work, and the individual is totally responsible for his or her success in life.
6. Though there are a few qualified women, warfare and the military should remain an all male enterprise.
7. Stem cell research is a slippery slope that is really murder; it must be stopped.
8. When government lowers taxes and spends less, more private money is generated and this is in turn invested in society and everyone benefits.
9. The death penalty is a just way to terminate the life of a heinous criminal.
10. Because Christianity is the root of American culture, children should be allowed to pray in public schools; Creationism should be taught alongside Evolution in our schools.

Your Total You are generally speaking a .

SPORTS and JUSTICE

(1) Native Americans were superb outdoorsmen and women who hunted, foraged and fished with incredible skill. In addition they played a rowdy, often violent game which the French called “Lacrosse.” Among Native Americans of the southwest foot racing 25 to 30 miles was a popular sport, probably in connection with religious rituals. Hawaiians were superb seamen and sea-women, who lived off the sea’s bounty and who invented surfing. Early American colonists learned a great deal from the Native Americans and hunting and fishing became extremely important as sources of food and as recreation. Today, about 7% of Americans hunt, more fish, and even more seek recreation opportunities in the Great Outdoors through hiking, camping, mountain biking, climbing, skiing, and snow boarding. Justice involves mediating between interests which see public
lands as a place to make money and those who see the public lands as places to be enjoyed but not plundered for personal profit. Mining, lumber, and the tourist industries have often had more money and more influence than groups representing the common interests of the American people in recreation outdoors.

FOR CLASS

1. The most popular sport in the world is what? Why is it not a popular tv sport in America?
2. The 1972 Title IX of the Education Act affected what group?
4. What is the highest score you have ever gotten when you bowled?
5. Hank Greenberg was about to break Babe Ruth’s (homerun, strike out) record in 1938; because he was a Jew, non-Jewish pitchers refused to pitch to him and he didn’t break the record.
6. Tae Kwon Do was brought to America by immigrants from what country?
7. Tai Chi and Kung Fu were brought to America by immigrants from what country?
8. Judo is a form of wrestling brought to America by immigrants from where?
9. Why does the biography of LeBron James illustrate the role of the Vernacular Tradition in sports?
10. Steroid abuse has affected what sports?
11. Is steroid use cheating?
12. Recently, mountain biking, snow boarders, women boxers, climbing, mixed martial arts, extreme sports, and chicken riding have challenged the more standard/approved sports. Are these “asymetrical sports” something we should expect in a culture where the Vernacular Tradition in the arts is important?
13. What is the Burning Man festival? How do Americans generally view rules, traditions, and disciplines in the arts and sports?
14. Women now participate in a variety of sports which, 30 years ago, were considered just for men. Name two:
15. Millions of Americans watch highly (over) paid athletes do dangerous and demanding activities. Does an obsession to watch sports generally encourage or discourage healthy minds and bodies?
16. Do you think college sports really enhance college experience for non-athletes?

SPORTS HEROES/HEROINES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In what sports were/are these athletes famous?
1. James Francis Thorpe , Paul Robeson
2. Duke Kahanamoku, Michael Phelps
3. Babe Didrikson, Jesse Owens
4. Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, Henry Aaron, Roberto Clemente, and Frank Robinson
5. Jim Brown and Gale Sayers
6. Chuck Cooper, Oscar Robertson, Bill Russell, and Wilt Chamberlain, Yao
7. Maureen Connolly, Margaret Osborne duPont, Doris Hart, Althea Gibson , Billie Jean King, Arthur Ashe, Serena and Venus Williams
8. Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman
9. Bode Miller
10. Tiger Woods

A SHORT HISTORY OF LAW, DRUGS AND (IN)JUSTICE

(1) In the late 1800's, the United States had no national laws controlling drugs. People could buy opium and morphine whenever they wanted. Many medicine companies hid the fact that their remedies contained habit-forming substances. As a result, many people developed a drug dependency. By the early 1900's, the United States faced its first epidemic of drug abuse. The first federal law to help protect the safety of people using drugs was the Food and Drugs Act of 1906. This act required labeling of the amount of certain substances, including opiates, cocaine, and marijuana, in nonprescription drugs. However, people could still purchase dangerous drugs legally. Public pressure for national controls over narcotic and cocaine sales finally led to the Harrison Act of 1914. The act required the payment of a small tax every time a drug changed hands, from the manufacturer down to the doctor or pharmacist. The government used the taxes to control availability and sale of the drugs. The act also required registration of all physicians and pharmacists and made opiates and cocaine available only by prescription. In 1919, the act was expanded to prevent physicians from freely prescribing habit-forming opiates. Doctors could only renew prescriptions for opiates for serious medical reasons, such as severe pain. Although drug use began to gradually decline in the 1920's, the fight to prevent drug abuse continued. By 1931, most states required antidual education in their schools.

(2) In 1937, Congress passed the Marijuaana Tax Act, banning the nonmedical or untaxed possession of marijuana. Much of the anti-Marijuana movement was fanned by anti-Mexican and anti-black sentiments because Marijuana was identified as the drug of Mexican migrant workers and of blacks, especially black jazz musicians. By the early 1940's, though drug use in general was minimal, many soldiers in World War 2 became addicted to morphine, which was freely given to the wounded. In the 1950's, use of amphetamines, tranquilizers, and marijuana increased, and in the 1960's and 1970's, drug use soared. In the
1980’s, people grew familiar with the destructive side of drugs and began once again working to solve the problems of drug abuse. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a U.S. government agency, the U.S. drug abuse rate is higher than that of any other industrialized nation. Misuse or illegal use of prescription drugs kills far more people than all illicit drugs.

(3) There are approximately 17,000 state and local courts and 90 federal courts. About 90 percent of all criminal cases are under the jurisdiction of the minor, or lower, trial courts, which are generally empowered to hear MISDEMEANOR cases--crimes punishable by a maximum sentence of a fine or one year in jail. Major trial courts hear FELONY cases--more serious crimes punishable by a sentence of at least one year in a prison. Federal courts hear criminal cases that involve constitutional issues, such as civil rights, or offenses against federal laws, such as the banking laws.

**For Class:**
1. Nearly 50% of all prisoners in America’s prisons: a) black  b) Hispanic  c) Asian  d) white
2. Why is there so much drug violence in Mexico, Columbia and Afghanistan? a) fair and balanced sentencing  b) mandatory sentencing
3. In the entire world in terms of numbers of people locked up, America ranks number:  a) One   b) Nine
4. Drug and alcohol abuse every year cost the American economy around ($20, 150) billion.
5. Process whereby an accused person agrees to a lesser charge in exchange for a lighter sentence, reduction of charges or other benefits: a) habeas corpus  b) plea bargaining
6. Number of cases resolved by “5” is around:  a) 70%  b) 90%
7. Used to determine if a prisoner is being legally held; often it is an appeal to the federal courts because Due Process has not been followed: a) habeas corpus  b) nolo contendre
8. In 1984, a change in Federal law meant that judges had little discretion in sentencing convicted drug criminals; this was called a) fair and balanced sentencing  b) mandatory sentencing
10. Will make you really stupid:  a) drug abuse  b) believing everything your beloved professor tells you
11. Overwhelmingly, in terms of number and percentage, (whites, blacks) are punished for drug crimes. Recently, the Supreme Court and the Sentencing Commission have recognized the injustice of the current system and demanded changes. Some prisoners, sentenced under the old rules, will be released early.
12. The richest country on earth, with incomparable freedoms and opportunities, America nevertheless has enormous problems with drug and alcohol abuse. Every day, millions of Americans need legal and illegal drugs and/or alcohol to cope with life. Do you think addictions should be punished as a crime?
13. In 2006, Japan had 53 murders involving firearms; America averages (2500, 250) homicides, most by firearms, per year; it also averages about (2500, 250) children, 18 and under, killed with firearms. We also have several horrific random shootings-killings each year. Why?
14. In 1986, the Supreme Court ruled that private acts of homosexuality between consenting adults are not protected by the Constitution; states can make such acts criminal. In 1988, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 required the government to pay $20000 to surviving Japanese who had been interred in the World...
War Two Detention camps.

(3) More recently, the Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 ordered that Federal institutions must return human remains and any artifacts to native Americans. In 2003, in Texas v Lawrence, the Supreme Court threw out sodomy laws, saying the government has no interest in regulating sex between consenting adults. This over turned its 1986 decision on the same subject. The conservative California Supreme Court in 2008 ruled that gays could not be denied the right to marry.

POPULAR CULTURE: ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, AND ACTORS

(1) As we said at the start of the class (remember?), the Vernacular Tradition is America’s tradition that stems from the ground up, that is a cultural movement has been democratic and practical. It has long been fascinated by technological change and used technology to promote vernacular ideas. The phonograph popularized jazz and the radio and television became vehicles to promote vernacular ideas (think of American Idol). The Vernacular tradition insists that justice flows from the bottom up in American history, that the average people, not political heroes, are often on the cutting edge of expansions of America’s freedoms. People forced America to become more just, people like Eugene Debs, Mother Jones, Cesar Chavez, and Emma Goldman in the area of work, Rachel Carson and David Brower in the environment, black Jazz musicians in music, Jack Johnson, Babe Didrikson, Jesse Owens and Jackie Robinson in sports, and tens of thousands of average Americans in every aspect of American culture. Art has also been an area where the Vernacular Tradition has opened up the possibilities of American culture; it has also expressed criticism of America from the bottom up, from self taught artists. Many of America’s folk artists and creative people have little interest in a standardized system of regulating artists that dominates many cultures. Quilting and Jimi Hendrix are examples of creativity outside the normal paths of art; on the downside, the Vernacular Tradition has produced an immense quantity of bad art, of silly trends, and of false “artists”. Today, almost every field of creativity is being co-opted by corporations and the pervasiveness of the commercial media. This ubiquitous System can be as tyrannical and hostile to creativity as any dictator, and the antidote might come from the worldwide Web, if it too isn’t swallowed up by the System.

(2) An artistic trend often dominates the creative world for a time, and all the arts are influenced by this trends emphases. Since the 1830’s, REALISM has insisted that the visual art should imitate photography; that poetry and novels should focus on the experiences of average people and short stories and novels should be a narrative. Realistic artists often emphasized the sordid, unjust reality many Americans confronted; Upton Sinclair’s novel The Jungle or Richard Wright’s Native Son for example. MODERNISM (1900-1960) was a revolt against Realism; often it was Abstract (that is, it used simplified lines, use of color). Painter Jackson Pollock, called “Jack the Dipper” for his technique of splattering paint on huge canvases, was a pioneer in Abstract Expressionism, but this type of art was never really big in American Popular Culture. Maya Lin’s controversial Vietnam Wall Memorial in its simple black geometry can be seen as an example of Abstractionism. POST-MODERNISM (from 1960 to now) brought realism back to the forefront, and since it was a playful blend of realism and sarcasm, Americans tended to respond more positively to it. Moreover, artists like Roy Lichtenstein, Judy Chicago and Andy Warhol used Popular culture like sculptors use marble as the very stuff of their creations. Lichtenstein used panels from comic books and Warhol used pop icons like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis and Chairman Mao. Self referencing—art that draws attention to itself by borrowing/stealing from other arts or is self conscious of its artistry-- in poetry, painting, sculpting, film and novels is rampant.

(3) Throughout its history, Art and Popular Culture has been profoundly affected by technology, from record players and the radio, to television and cassettes, CD’s, MP3/4 technology, iPODs, and to eMovies on Youtube. Clearly, technology has expanded the realm of creativity. Many venues opened by new technology are being used to criticize injustice and to flood the world with inferior creative products.

Songs for Justice of the 20th and 21st century

(1) In the 20th century, the union movement, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights movement, and the War in Vietnam all spawned protest songs. The 1920s produced songs such as the anti-lynching song, "Strange Fruit." It also saw the birth of the union and labor movements, which produced "The Cradle Will Rock", a pro-union musical so controversial that it was shut down for fear of social unrest. It was during the 20s and 30s that The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), also known as the Wobblies, used music to protest working conditions in the United States and to recruit new members to their cause. The 1940s and 1950s saw the rise of music that continued to protest labor, race, and class issues, and produced artists who would have an enduring influence on the protest music genre, most notably Woody Guthrie ("This Land Is Your Land", "Deportee", "Dust Bowl Blues", "Tom Joad").

(2) The 1960s was a fertile era for the genre, especially with the rise of the Civil Rights movement and the escalation of the War in Vietnam. Bob Dylan produced landmark songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind" (1962), "Masters of War" (1963), "Talking World War III Blues" (1963), and "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (1964). Pete Seeger produced "Where Have All the Flowers Gone", "If I Had a Hammer" (which was written in 1949, but rose to Top Ten popularity in 1962), and "Turn, Turn, Turn" (also written earlier but released in the early 1960s), among others. "We Shall Overcome", his adaptation of an American gospel song, continues to be used to support issues from labor rights to peace movements. Other notable voices of the period included Joan Baez and Phil Ochs. The music often included fairly simple instrumental accompaniment including acoustic guitar and harmonica.
The American civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s often used Negro spirituals as a source of protest, changing the religious lyrics to suit the political mood of the time. The use of religious music helped to emphasize the peaceful nature of the protest; it also proved easy to adapt, with many improvised call-and-response songs being created during marches and sit-ins. Some imprisioned protesters used their incarceration as an opportunity to write protest songs. These songs were carried across the country by Freedom Riders, and many of these became Civil Rights anthems. In the 1970's, during the War in Vietnam, many protest songs were written and recorded, most notably "War," (1970) by Edwin Starr, "Ohio" (1970) by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, ""Imagine"" (1971) and "Give Peace a Chance" (1972) by John Lennon. Cat Stevens left his mark on the genre with "Peace Train" in 1971, as did Black Sabbath with "War Pigs" (1971). The Rolling Stones protested against police brutality with "Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo (Heartbreaker)" (1973).

Punk music from the 70's featured anti-war, anti-state, and anti-capitalist themes. A 1983 protest song that gained considerable attention worldwide was "99 Luftballons" by Nena. The song protested the escalating rhetoric and strategic maneuvering between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The 1992 film Bob Roberts is an example of protest music parody, in which the title character - played by American actor Tim Robbins - is a guitar-playing U.S. Senatorial candidate who writes and performs songs with a heavily reactionary tone.Neil Young continued the theme in the twenty-first century with his song, "Let's Impeach the President" - a stinging rebuke against President George W. Bush and the War in Iraq, as did Pink with her appeal to Bush in "Dear Mr. President". Pearl Jam also included two anti-Bush songs ("World Wide Suicide", "Marker In The Sand") in their 2006 album Pearl Jam. Not to forget the band Dispatch and the anti-war underground hit "The General". Utah Philips, the Riot-Folk! Collective, and David Rovics, among many other singers have continued the folk tradition of protest. Also, Rage Against The Machine has been one of the most popular bands in recent times with songs such as Bullet In The Head and Bulls On Parade. Paris also released the critically acclaimed 'What Would You Do?' referencing everything from false flag operations and the elite's grip on the worlds governments to the truth behind the 9/11 attacks.

SOME KEY 20TH CENTURY ARTISTS

Painters
Henry Ossawa Tanner, Horace Pippin (1888-1946), Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000)

Poets
(18th century: Phillis Wheatley), Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Gwendolyn Brooks

Architects
I. M. Pei (pronounced pay) Maya Lin

Singers/ Musicians
Bessie Smith, Marian Anderson, George Gerschwin, Hank Williams/Buck Owens
Chuck Berry/Little Richard, Elvis/ Bob Dylan/ Rickie Nelson, Aretha Franklin/Jimi Hendricks

MULTICULTURAL AMERICA, GLOBALISM AND JUSTICE

(1) America has a $15 trillion economy, the largest in the world. For any other country to be a player in the world market, it must have access to the American market. On the other hand, America needs resources and cheap labor, as well as markets for its products, overseas. These powerful currents are a significant part of what is called Globalism, the interconnectiveness of the world through travel, trade, immigration and technology. War is a significant part of the American economy. The military budget, and collateral funding for other budget items like the nuclear industry and intelligence, totals nearly a trillion dollars per year, by far the largest in the world. American arms dealers also sell about $50 billion dollars worth of jets, tanks, and weapons around the world, the most of any country. The Iraq war will probably cost around $3 trillion, and the cost of the war in Afghanistan will soar as more Americans are sent there. America has more than 700 military bases around the world. It now spends more on its military than the rest of the world combined. Some critics insist that such a vast military, and such aggressive policies, prove that the Republic has clearly become an “empire”. One critic, Chalmers Johnson, has said, “America can either be an empire, or a republic. It cannot be both.” An empire is by its very nature unjust and undemocratic.

(2) These immense outlays for defense and war making take place against the background of America now being the world’s largest debtor country. China and Japan are buying up most of this debt, supporting our wars and our enormous military. With all the needs in America for improvements in health care, education, infrastructure, the environment and economic justice, our military spending dramatically reduces our nation’s ability to fund these societal needs. Another problem is nukes. The USA, China, Russia, North Korea, Pakistan, India, and Israel all have nukes. Iran, as well as several other countries, wish to join this elite club, whose members can threaten enemies with dire consequences for behavior the elite members don’t like. On the other hand, America invaded Iraq which didn’t have nukes, but didn’t invade North Korea, which does. This lesson is widely understood around the world. Who should have nukes and who shouldn’t is a very complicated question, one of the thorniest that Globalism presents to the world’s community. In addition, Britain, France, China, Russia and the USA (all countries with nukes) are permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, the key body of the UN. Of all the members of the UN, only these five permanent members can veto a UN resolution, which means it is dead. This is clearly unfair and is one reason the U.N. is not as effective as it might be.
1. In Tibet, Canada, Georgia, and Turkey, ethnic minorities are struggling for the right to speak a distinct language other than that of the majority population. Why is language central to culture?
2. What country makes most top grossing films? How do French/Korean film-makers view this film Colossus?
3. What country in the world makes the best food?
4. The American Indian Movement influenced many indigenous groups around the world. Much of the gambling money coming into Indian reservations goes to (Indian, Non Indian) investors. Why can Indian reservations in America have casinos?
5. Can American financial aid be given to international health organizations which, as part of family planning, discuss abortion?
6. Recently, America has seen an amazing 400%-500% increase in the number of women in (the military, prison). Why?
7. What is the fastest growing religion in America, especially among men in prison?
8. What two countries’ populations are more than a billion?
9. Has immigration to America from these two countries increased or decreased in the last decade?
10. Are most Coke sales inside or outside the U.S.?
11. Would you take a $150000 job representing Coke in Sudan?
12. What American company owns the most real estate of any corporation in the world?
13. What is the best selling car of all time?
14. What are honor killings? What, according to many experts, is the most dangerous country?
15. Where does Walmart get about 80-90% of the goods that it sells, free market style, in America?
16. What are genetically modified foods? What is “Terminator” Wheat?
17. Are GMF’s most widely used, inside or outside the USA?
18. OPEC controls much of the world’s oil supply and is dominated by Saudi Arabia. America has for more than fifty years generally “kissed up” to Saudi Arabia’s rulers. What rights do citizens have in Saudi Arabia?
19. In Germany, can an immigrant become a citizen?
20. In 1964, there was one (toilet, tv) for every 20 people on earth; now there is one for every 4.
21. What were the last two American films you saw? What do they say about the morals of American society?
22. On the Haj, Malcolm X had a profound insight. This helped him alter his view of life, race, and religion. What is the Haj?
23. China is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. What form of government does it have?
24. Why are so many “free-market, capitalistic businesses” flocking to China?
25. More than ¼ (soon to be 1/3) of California’s pollution comes from what country’s industries?
27. Which American immigrant group has the highest percentage of self-employment: Koreans, Iranians, Cubans, or Russians?
28. Which group of recent immigrants to America controls about 50% of chain motels?
29. Many countries south of the Sahara, like South Africa, have an enormous problem with what disease? (One in six adults and one in three babies in S.A.)
30. If you were to go on a “Food and Liquid Refreshment tour” of a country, what country would it be?
31. China believes Taiwan is a threat. Suppose China invaded Taiwan, and took it over. Would the America government have the moral authority to tell China: “In the modern and civilized world, war is not an option, morally or economically?” Suppose Russia invaded the Republic of Georgia?
32. If you were to go on a “I need a break from all the Bulls**t tour” of a country, what country would it be?
33. Why were toys, medicine, and animal food imported from China recently in the news?
34. When America makes trade agreements, what is more important, labor rights or patent rights?
35. What is “sharia” law?
36. If you were to go on a “I need to forget a painful Humanities Class tour” of a country, what country would that be?