MULTICULTURAL AMERICA, SP 2011
Culture, A Brief Introduction

GET DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW ON EACH OF THESE LINES OF INQUIRY.

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 advertising.)

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. In the case of the United States, the 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. Successfully assimilating immigrants 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. (Whom does Thursday celebrate?) Cultures are continuously changing, and American culture, like most cultures, has changed often. (“New” is the most used word in advertising.)

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 2.4 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 39 million). For a long time Asians were not encouraged to emigrate to America, but now they make up around 5% of all immigrants. European immigrants have generally done better, but not all were successful. Many first generation immigrants experience “cultural 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, 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 309 million; by 2050 it will be around a) 439 m b) 539m
2. Today Whites are about 66-68% of the population; in 2050 they will be about a) 36% b) 46% c) 56%
3. Whites in America will 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, it will jump from around 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.
9. As far as biology is concerned, race is a) an illusion b) an essential reality of human anatomy
10. 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.
11. 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 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: condeming 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) Post Modernism (1950-Yesterday)**

(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 Malibu’s, from tagging walls to Reality TV, from HipHop to American 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 they used song, dance, poetry, prose, quilting, tombstones, home building, and the visual arts to enhance their lives and to portray significant aspects of life.

(4) Around 1800, the Romantic Movement influenced most artists in Europe and many in America. Dracula and Frankenstein are examples of this movement. 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 was important and odd. Among other things, the Romantic Movement stressed the heroic, the strange, the exotic, the terrifying, and the ecstatic. It focused on emotions, a gut level way of experiencing life. Landscape 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. George Catlin and several other painters portrayed the lives of Indians in the 1800’s.

(5) Photography, starting in the 1830’s and journalism were two of the things which helped to create the
cultural and artistic movement called Realism in the mid 1800’s. Realists stressed the common place experiences of everyday people; photography and journalism strongly influenced visual arts. Mark Twain was a Regionalist Realist writer. Realist painters such as Winslow Homer and Alfred Waud captured how the Civil War affected everyday Americans. Vinnie Ream was a female 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. Many Americans tend to prefer Realism in their arts (ie=Reality TV).

(6) Modernists in the early 20th century generally despised Realism. Modernists generally tried to reduce forms to simple lines or color patterns and tried to avoid the story telling 3 dimensional aspects of hated Realism. On the other hand, 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 Pop Culture.

FOR CLASS
1. As far as Justice and the Arts, there are three things to consider: the Vernacular Tradition and Justice, and The Feminist critique of Art, and Creativity defining freedom.
2. Vernacular artists—generally, self taught-- have responded to the Elite arts and used the arts for 400 years to get out messages about the struggle for justice. From anti-British drawings in 18th century papers and pamphlets to contemporary songs about enivronmental or social injustice, vernacular artists, often minority artists, continue to express outrage at inhumanity. Though it often promotes mediocrity or worse, the Vernacular is still the most potent force in American art, from film to the Internet.
3. The Feminist critique of the arts in general points out the historical absence of women as important artists in the nearly all male Western Tradition. Only since World War Two has an impressive array of women artists been permitted into the nearly all male preserve of creating, evaluating and passing on art. There has also been a recognition of many female dominated crafts, such as quilt making and weaving, as being Vernacular and valuable arts.
4. The philosopher Nietzsche said, “Life without music would be unbearable,” and by implication, Life would also be unbearable without the other arts. Life without creativity is unfair. Artists are famous for pushing the boundaries of what is and is not acceptable, or even thinkable. Creativity is by its very nature unique and liberating, and it is therefore a crucial aspect of justice. Each individual needs creativity to express his or her one-of-a-kind relationship with the world. Cooking, dancing, singing, telling stories, scrapbooking, tattooing and many other creative venues enlarge the range of our freedom. Justice for yourself, for that self that is waiting to express itself creatively, demands that you have the freedom to paint or write poetry. This is a fight for justice that you must often make on your own. An hour of drawing or playing the guitar is infinitely more valuable than playing Wii, text messaging, or watching soccer. Just do it.
5. Put another way, in a society where many people work, and then, after work, mainly become distracted through technology, there is little room for passionate and creative activities. Painting, dancing, writing poetry, making pottery, or any activity that involves focused play of the mind, and deepens self awareness, enhances your freedom. Art always battles against boundaries, social and personal, and art invigorates the self understanding of the artist. Deeper self understanding always increases a person’s freedom, and without creativity, freedom can evaporate. Everyone has a right to creative self expression, and a truly civilized society recognizes this and encourages creativity.

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
defies easy generalizations, yet most believed that their land was inhabited or visited by their ancestors and that respect

(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 could 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 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.

FOR CLASS
1. Today, about 82% of all Americans are (Catholics, Christian) and about one in (ten, four) are Catholics. About what percentage of all Americans claim to be Protestant? (30%, 50%)
2. The most recent report, released March 9, 2009, found that 34.2 million Americans (15.0%) claim no religion. Of these, 1.6% explicitly describe themselves as atheist or agnostic, double the previous 2001 survey figure. How is an atheist different from an agnostic?
3. How many non Christians have been elected President? (2, Zero). How many Catholics have been Prez?
4. One of the oldest European religious traditions in America is the Jewish Faith that 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 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. Is this doctrine of the Trinity believed by Jews or Muslims?
6. Generally, most Native American religions teach that all things are spiritually connected; however, their ceremonies involving 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 4 to 6 million.
9. The Qur’an (also spelt Koran) is the holy book of one of the fastest growing religion in America and the world. Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam teaches charity, love and peace to its adherents; it is also the most racially diverse religion in America. 2/3’s are foreign born. What is Islam’s holiest city?
10. According to a Pew Research Survey, more than 80% Jehovah Witnesses pray every day, the highest % in America. In my opinion, praying that dogs, cats, or professors may get into heaven is (useful, a waste of time.)
11. About 1.5 million Americans worship Shiva and pratice (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 many Presidents believe/d God was on America’s side in its various wars. What world religion as part of its tradition teaches killing as a sacred duty?
14. According to recent polls, about 1/5 of the population goes to Church/mosque/synagogue every weekend. Who pray more and go to church more, men or women? (Who is Holier?)
15. Harmony, balance, breathing, exercise, spontaneity and naturalness are qualities emphasized by the Daoists.
American immigrants from what country are likely to practice “Feng shui” and Daoism?
16. In Hawaii, American missionaries played a significant role in destroying that culture and its religion, much like their role among Native American traditions. “Heiau” and “kahuna” are “temple” and “priest” in this polytheistic tradition. Like among native Americans, there has been a recent religious revival among Hawaiian traditionalists.
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 over 5 million Americans, the Mormon church tells its members (who are on average healthier than other Americans) to avoid what substances?

WORK, WEALTH 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, exp. 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 outsourcing, 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 thrift 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 businesses 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.” From the 1920’s till today, worth is shown by the quantity and quality of “stuff” you own. Daily, Americans swim in a sea of “pimping”: propaganda-like advertising, meant to get them to crave after newer, better, bigger “stuff.” Today, hundreds of billions of dollars a year is spent on ads, mostly on tv and online, 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 more money and have more benefits.

(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. It’s 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.

Labor Heroes

The five day work week, the eight hour day, pensions and Unemployment Compensation came about because of fierce struggles for justice. Upton Sinclair wrote The Jungle in the Robber Barons era, and this book exposed cruel working conditions in Chicago. If you worked in one of Chicago’s meat packing plants or in Carnegie’s steel mills, and you lost an arm in an accident, you lost your job and got no compensation. 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. Samuel Gompers was a founder of the American Federation of Labor. Courageous Mother Jones fought for workers, especially for children laborers. Anti-union violence was widespread, but these heroes still volunteered to take part in them. Strike breakers and cops frequently smashed the heads of strikers. Striking miners in Telluride, Colorado, were shot at and chained to poles overnight, and Mother Jones was at Ludlow, Colorado. when miners and their families were massacred. More recently, Cesar Chavez led the fight for justice of migrant workers in California, and he helped to create the United Farm Workers of America. Dolores Huerta was also an important leader in the struggle for justice for migrant workers.

COLLEGE AND COSTS

Today, Class is the key variable in quality of life, that is the length of life and comforts of life. If you can’t be born into a rich family, the best way to acquire wealth--besides marrying a rich spouse-- (legally) in America is through education. However, College today costs 3-4 times as much as it cost 35 years ago. Success in education generally (in the past) meant higher earnings over a lifetime. Because of difficulties in education, many Hispanic Americans and Native Americans are at the bottom rung in the American economy. Over their lifetime, college students on average earn one million dollars more in wages and benefits compared to a friend who has not gone to college.

FOR CLASS

1. At home, among friends, and at church, people practice one sort of morality; at work, is it the same?
2. Where do working people work more per year, America or Europe? Where do working people take fewer vacations, America or Europe?
3. The number of Americans who eat at a fast food restaurant once a day is about one in (4, 16).
4. What is “outsourcing”? Why is it done?
5. In France all workers--as mandated by law--receive (1, 5) week(s) of paid vacation a year.
6. 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?
7. Who will be more directly important to you and your family, nurses or NBA stars?
8. Your favorite fruit is what? In California, what sort of person does the dirty, backbreaking, low paying job of picking your favorite fruit?
9. 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”?

10. Traditionally, work among Native Americans (around 2.4 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?

11. In terms of worker rights and benefits, America was **behind, ahead of** Europe in 1920. And today.

12. According to recent studies, about 18000 people a year in America die from lack of health care. Why is your health connected to whether you can pay for health care or not—is health care a right or a commodity, like Coors and a Lexus?

13. Government de-regulation of the financial system and greed on WallStreet caused the crash of 2008; in 2010, Wall Street Bankers and Brokers passed out $140 Billion in **BONUSES**, while millions of Americans lost jobs and their homes. Is this just?

14. 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, technology, the ease with which capital can move, and outsourcing make workers’ lives **harder, fun**.

15. According to a recent study, the top 1 percent of Americans owned over a third of the nation’s wealth, and the top 10% controls nearly 70% of American wealth. The bottom 50% of US citizens control just a little over 2% of the wealth. This is the greatest disparity since the late 1920’s just before the Great Depression. What’s wrong with this picture?