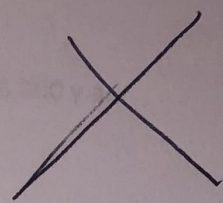


NOTES: CHAPTER 10

MODERN HUMANS

- ✓ Older anatomically modern humans (AMHs)
 - 1) Herto—Ethiopia (154,000-160,000)
 - 2) Omo Kibish—Ethiopia (125,000-195,000)
 - 3) Pinnacle Point—South Africa (164,000)
 - 4) Border Cave—South Africa (150,000)
 - 5) Klasies River Mouth—South Africa (120,000)
 - 6) Skūhl—Israel (100,000)
 - 7) Qafzeh—Israel (92,000)
 - 8) Western European early modern humans—Cro Magnons
- ✓ Modern humans (AMHs) arose fairly recently in Africa, then spread out and colonized the world.
- ✓ There are important genetic differences between modern humans and Neandertals.
- ✓ There is some debate regarding the interbreeding of the two species.



ADVENT OF BEHAVIORAL MODERNITY

- ✓ Behavioral modernity: “fully human behavior based on symbolic thought and cultural creativity” (205).
- ✓ Most anthropologists consider the era beginning approximately 45,000 years ago as the moment when humans were “fully human in behavior as well as in anatomy” (170). The question is simply how did humans get to this point?
- ✓ Some anthropologists think this behavioral modernity had to do with a “genetic mutation acted to rewire the human brain, possibly allowing for an advance in language” (170).
- ✓ Other anthropologists believe this behavioral modernity was a slow process of cultural accumulation
- ✓ Evidence of behavioral modernity:
 - 1) Developments in tools.
 - 2) Development of weapons.
 - 3) Body ornaments.
 - 4) Etc.

ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ Upper Paleolithic era: 40,000 to 10,000 years ago.
 - 1) Blade tools (tools hammered off a core stone and whose length were more than twice their width)—a much more specialized tool.
 - 2) Flakes (four to six inches)—still used at this point in time.
 - 3) Cooperative hunting of mammoths, woolly rhinos, bison, wild horses, bears, wild cattle, and reindeer.
 - 4) Increased standardization in tool manufacture.
 - 5) Other stone tools that were created during the Upper Paleolithic: scrapers, chisels, awls.
 - 6) Bone tools that were created at this time: knives, pins, needles, and fishhooks.
 - 7) There were tools that were associated with distinct cultures.

GLACIAL RETREAT

- ✓ The Würm glacial ended between 17,000 and 12,000 years ago.
- ✓ Western Europeans were forced to use a greater variety of foods at this time.
- ✓ Continental shelf—shallow-water zone.
- ✓ Continental slope—abrupt fall to deep water.
- ✓ During a glacial the continental shelf is exposed. After a glacial the continental shelf is submerged.

- ✓ This changes food availability and, hence, food gathering and hunting techniques.
- ✓ During the Würm glacial, a "broad-spectrum revolution" occurred—humans began to hunt, gather, and fish for many and varied types of food.

CAVE ART

- ✓ 100 Cave painting sites have been discovered—the earliest dates to 36,000 y.a.
- ✓ The most famous are the Lascaux cave drawings in France.
- ✓ Cave painting may be associated with ritual surrounding the hunt.
- ✓ Cave painting may also have to do with animal fertility rituals.
- ✓ Cave painting may also have acted as a sort of pictorial history.
- ✓ Paintings often occur in clusters, with many images, and at times with images drawn over older images.
- ✓ These paintings coincide with the Würm glacial retreat.

SETTLING OF AUSTRALIA

- ✓ As continental glaciers ebbed and flowed, land bridges were formed at various points in time.
- ✓ 50,000 years ago, dry land connected Australia, New Guinea, and Tasmania. There was a short span of water to cross from Southeast Asia to the Australian region (see image on page 177).
- ✓ A DNA comparison between modern people from Papua New Guinea and Australia shows a correlation.
- ✓ Australia was settled approximately 46,000 years ago. There is fossil evidence (earliest DNA evidence) to back up this claim.
- ✓ These fossils were found at the Lake Mungo site in New South Wales.

SETTLING THE AMERICAS

- ✓ Beringia—the Bering land bridge that once connected North America and Siberia.
- ✓ These humans were big-game hunters who, over the generations, followed their prey east and then south into the Americas.
- ✓ Many new natural resources awaited these humans in the Americas: new game, new vegetables, etc.
- ✓ The Clovis spear head tradition (13,250-12,800 years ago) illustrates the sophisticated stone tool techniques used at this time.
- ✓ The Clovis people were not the first settlers of the Americas. There were most likely four to five haplogroups (lineage marked by specific genetic mutations) that migrated into and across the Americas.
- ✓ It would have taken 600 to 1,000 years for these early hunters in the Americas to travel the 8,680 miles from southern Canada to Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America.
- ✓ Note that the Meadowcroft archaeology site is not mentioned in this chapter by Kottak!

PEOPLING THE PACIFIC

- ✓ Humans may have migrated from Southeast Asia directly or from Melanisia. There is some debate about whether Melanisia was bypassed or not.
- ✓ They would have used outrigger canoes to traverse great ocean distances. This outrigger canoe would eventually be developed and become the double-hull sailing canoe.
- ✓ The Lapita potsherds are pieces of ornate ware that are often considered "the product of an ethnically distinct people" (216).
- ✓ The peopling of the Pacific could also have had to do with human population growth that propelled groups of people in search of food resources.

NOTES: CHAPTER 11

THE FIRST FARMERS OF THE MESOLITHIC ERA

- ✓ Glacial retreat resulted in the "broad-spectrum revolution" in which a larger spectrum of plant and animal life was hunted, gathered, collected, caught, and fished. This leads to food production.

✓ Mesolithic era:

- 1) Characterized by the microlith (small stone tool).

~~X~~ 2) By 12,000 B.P. (in ancient Europe):

- Subarctic animals no longer lived in southwestern Europe.

~~X~~ 3) By 10,000 B.P. (In ancient Europe):

- Major glacial retreat.
- Hunting and gathering extends all the way to the British Isles and Scandinavia.
- Forest dominates as opposed to treeless steppe and tundra.
- Europeans are exploiting a wide variety of foods.
- People still hunted and developed new hunting techniques.
- Fishhooks were used extensively.
- Dugout canoes were used for fishing and travel.
- Preserving meat and fish by salt and smoking became increasingly important.
- The bow and arrow were used prolifically.
- Dogs were domesticated.
- Woodworking would become more important.
- New kinds of axes, chisels, and gouges were invented.
- Foraging strategies were developed.
- Gathering becomes the dietary mainstay.
- There is a shift to smaller game as the big-game supply diminishes.

✓ The Neolithic era (note that eras vary in terms of geographic location):

- 1) Characterized by smooth/polished stone tools.
- 2) Also characterized by a new total economy.
- 3) Dependence on domesticated food (more than 50 percent).
- 4) Dependence on cultivation.

~~X~~ 5) 12,000-10,000 B.P. (in the ancient Middle East):

- Intervention in the reproductive cycles of plants and animals.
- Committed farmers and herders.
- Period prior to domesticated plants (wheat and barley).

~~X~~ 6) 10,000-7,500 B.P. (in the ancient Middle East):

- Dry farming (no irrigation).
- Domestication of goats and sheep.

~~X~~ 7) 7,500-5,500 B.P. (in the ancient Middle East):

- Increased specialization in food production.

FIRST FARMERS AND HERDERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- ✓ Four environmental zones: high plateau, hilly flanks, piedmont steppe, and alluvial desert.
- ✓ Mesopotamian civilization would arise in this region (in the alluvial desert).
- ✓ Climate change played a part in the origin of food production. Populations responded to their food needs based on the climate changes they had to deal with.
- ✓ The Natufians were a culture that existed from 12,500-10,500 B.P.—they were sedentary
- ✓ Sedentism, or a sedentary lifestyle, emerges in this region at this time.
- ✓ Sedentary life developed before farming and herding. Populations would stay in place to store and guard their grain supplies.
- ✓ “The people who were most likely to adopt a new subsistence strategy, such as food production, would be those having the most trouble in following their traditional subsistence strategy” (227).
- ✓ Archaeological evidence supports this theory regarding marginal areas.
- ✓ Population pressure also impacted food production.
- ✓ Vertical economy: exploits environmental zones that, although close together in space, contrast with one another in altitude, rainfall, climate, and vegetation.
- ✓ There were also semi nomadic foragers who would continue to hunt game from zone to zone.
- ✓ Genetic changes and domestication:
 - 1) The seeds of domesticated plants are larger.
 - 2) Domesticated crops yield more.
 - 3) Domesticated crops lose their natural seed dispersal mechanisms.
 - 4) People also selected certain features in animals.
 - 5) Smaller animals were easier to control.
 - 6) Other changes, such as differences in horns, also occurred.
- ✓ Food production and the state:
 - ✗ 1) By 7,000 B.P. simple irrigation systems had been developed.
 - ✗ 2) By 6,000 B.P. more complex irrigation systems were implemented.
 - 3) Economies based on irrigation and trade began at this point.

OTHER OLD WORLD FOOD PRODUCERS (Refer to Chart on p. 196)

- ✓ “Food production arose independently at least seven times in different world areas” (refer to diagram on page 195.)
- ✓ African food producers:
 - 1) Seasonal camps discovered at archaeological sites.
 - 2) Cattle used for milk and blood rather than killed.
 - 3) Well organized villages.
 - 4) Deep wells have been discovered.
 - 5) Production of pottery.
 - 6) A more sophisticated social and ceremonial system.
 - 7) Astronomical measuring device (or calendar).

- 8) Well-organized work parties.
- 9) Alignment of stone slabs suggests ritualistic ceremonies.
- ✓ European and Asian food producers:
 - 1) Shift from foraging to farming.
 - 2) Sedentary farming villages.
 - 3) Presence of domesticated goats, sheep, cattle, wheat, and Barley (Pakistan).
 - 4) In China, there would be production of rice and millet (China).
 - 5) Rice is farmed via aquaculture.

THE FIRST AMERICAN FARMERS

- ✓ A great diversity of environments.
- ✓ Hunting of big-game occurred in conjunction with foraging.
- ✓ The largest domesticated animal in the new world would be the llama.
- ✓ Cattle, sheep, and goats were not the early domesticated animals in the new world.
- ✓ Three sources of carbohydrates were developed in the new world:
 - 1) Maize.
 - 2) White potatoes.
 - 3) Manioc or cassava.
- ✓ Food production was invented independently in at least three areas of the Americas:
 - 1) Mesoamerica
 - 2) The eastern U.S.
 - 3) The Andes.

COSTS AND BENEFITS

- ✓ Inventions accompanied the rise of food production.
- ✓ The rise of vibrant cities was a plus.
- ✓ Leisure time became more available.
- ✓ Disease spreads more rapidly in dense, sedentary populations.
- ✓ Social inequity and poverty also arise at this time in human history.
- ✓ Degradation of the environment also begins to be a reality at this time.

NOTES: CHAPTER 12

THE FIRST CITIES AND STATES

- ✓ A state is a form of social and political organization that has a formal, central government and a division of society into classes.
- ✓ The first states developed in Mesopotamia by 5,500 B.P.
- ✓ The first states developed in Mesoamerica some 3,000 years later.
- ✓ Chiefdoms are precursors to states with privileged and effective leaders—chiefs—but lacking the sharp class divisions that characterize states.
- ✓ How and why did chiefdoms and states originate?
 - 1) Multiple factors always contribute to a state formation.
 - 2) The need to regulate water or hydraulic agricultural economies is one factor.
 - 3) Another theory is that states arise at strategic locations in regional trade networks.
 - 4) Robert Carneiro's theory (1970) is a multivariate theory. States arise because:
 - Resources are concentrated in a given area.
 - Population has increased in a given area.
 - Warfare exists.
 - Refer to diagram on page 210, which is a nice visual representation of his theory.
- ✓ Empires are mature states that are territorially larger and expansive systems.
- ✓ Also, keep in mind V. Gordon Childe's attributes of early cities and states on p. 211, which was a theory he developed in 1951.

ATTRIBUTES OF STATES

- ✓ A "short version" is listed below:
 - 1) A state controls a specific regional territory and is expansive.
 - 2) Early states have farming economies based on irrigation and dense population.
 - 3) Early states rely on tributes and taxes. The state has a ruler to control resources, specialists, and the military.
 - 4) States are stratified into social classes.
 - 5) Early states had imposing public buildings and monumental architecture.
 - 6) Early states developed some form of record-keeping systems.

STATE FORMATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- ✓ By 6,000 B.P. population was increasing in Mesopotamia.
- ✓ By 5,500 B.P. towns had grown into cities.
- ✓ The earliest states were Sumer (Iraq) and Elam (Iran).
- ✓ Urban life:
 - 1) Jericho
 - 2) Çatal Hüyük
- ✓ The elite level: the widespread production of pottery at archaeological sites of early states shows the development in human innovations and greater population density.
- ✓ There are varying types of status distinctions amongst chiefdoms and states:

- 1) Egalitarian society: most typically found among foragers, lacks status distinctions except for those based on age, gender, and individual qualities, talents, and achievements.
- 2) Ranked societies: do have hereditary inequality, but they lack stratification (sharp social divisions based on unequal access to wealth and power) into noble and commoner classes.
- 3) Chiefdoms: societies in which relations among villages as well as among individuals were unequal.
- 4) Primary states: states that arose on their own, not through contact with other state societies.

THE RISE OF THE STATE

- ✓ Signs of an emerging state (examples from Mesopotamia):
 - 1) Expanding population.
 - 2) Increased food production from irrigation.
 - 3) Social and economic networks.
 - 4) Social differentials (priests, political leaders, specialists, commoners, slaves, etc.)
 - 5) Economies managed by central leadership.
 - 6) Record keeping.
 - 7) Cuneiform—symbols (wedge-shaped) scrawled on raw clay.
 - 8) Metallurgy
 - Copper—6,000-4,000 B.P.
 - Bronze—4,000-2,500 B.P.
 - Iron—2,500
 - 9) Uruk, the largest early Mesopotamian city had a population of 50,000 by 4,800 B.P.
 - 10) By 4,600 B.P. secular authority replaces temple rule.

OTHER EARLY STATES

- ✓ Indus River Valley—Harappan state
- ✓ China—the Shang Dynasty
- ✓ Northern Thailand—Nok Nok Tha
- ✓ Peru—early Andean state
- ✓ Africa—Egypt, Great Zimbabwe, and the Sahel
- ✓ Mesoamerica—Oaxaca, Zapotec, Teotihuacan, the Aztecs, and the Mayans

NOTES: CHAPTER 13

ETHNOGRAPHY: ANTHROPOLOGY'S DISTINCTIVE STRATEGY

- ✓ Field experience in another society.
- ✓ Ethnography emerged as a research strategy in societies with greater cultural uniformity and less social differentiation than are found in large, modern, industrial nations.
- ✓ Ethnographers adopt a free-ranging strategy for gathering information.
- ✓ Field techniques:
 - 1) Direct first-hand observation of behavior, known as **participant observation**.
 - Details of daily life, seasonal events, and unusual happenings.
 - Culture shock is often a problem in the early days of participant observation.
 - Requires a year or more of observation.
 - A diary is reserved for personal impressions, and field notes tend to be more formal observations.
 - Initial impressions are valuable.
 - Ethnographers should try to be accurate observers, recorders, and reporters.
 - Ethnographers must establish a rapport with the people they are living and working with.
 - Ethnographers cannot be entirely impartial observers.
 - 2) **Conversation** with varying degrees of formality, from the daily chitchat that helps maintain rapport and provides knowledge about what is going on, to prolonged **interviews**, which can be unstructured or structured. Different phases of conversation:
 - Naming phase.
 - Simple conversations.
 - Rapid-fire public discussions and group discussions.
 - Complex questions.
 - Interview schedule: form (guide) used to structure a formal, but personal, interview.
 - Questionnaire: form used by sociologists to obtain comparable information from respondents.
 - 3) The **genealogical method**.
 - A well-established ethnographic technique using diagrams and symbols to record kin connections.
 - Anthropologists need to collect genealogical data to understand current social relations and to reconstruct history.
 - 4) Detailed work with **key consultants, or informants**, about particular areas of community life.
 - Every community has people who by accident, experience, talent, or training can provide the most complete or useful information about particular aspects of life.
 - 5) In-depth interviewing, often leading to the collection of **life histories** or particular people (narrators).
 - When anthropologists find someone unusually interesting, they collect his or her life history. This recollection of a lifetime of experiences provides a more intimate and personal cultural portrait than would be possible otherwise.
 - 6) Discovery of local (native) beliefs and perceptions, which may be compared with the ethnographer's own observations and conclusions.

- The **emic** approach investigates how local people think. Operating emically, the ethnographer seeks the native viewpoint.
- The **etic** (scientist-oriented) approach shifts the focus from local observations, categories, explanations, and interpretations to those of the anthropologist.
- Ethnographers typically combine etic and emic strategies in their field work.

7) **Problem-oriented research** of many sorts.

- Most ethnographers now enter the field with a specific problem to investigate, and they collect relevant data.
- Anthropologists also gather information on population density, environmental quality, climate, physical geography, diet, and land use. This often requires direct measurement and/or government records or archival materials.

8) **Longitudinal research**—the continuous long-term study of an area or site.

- The long-term study of a community, region, society, culture, or other unit, usually based on repeated visits.
- Refer to page 280 for a specific example.

9) **Team research**—coordinated research by multiple ethnographers.

- Groups of anthropologists often work in the same region.
- Researchers build on the work of one another.
- Longitudinal research is often team research.

- ✓ There has been a shift in anthropology toward recognition of ongoing and inescapable flows of people, technology, images, and information.
- ✓ Anthropology has a keen awareness of its global and public service capabilities.
- ✓ Most field techniques now take into account the local and the global—i.e. mass media impacts many cultures.

SURVEY RESEARCH

- ✓ As anthropologists work increasingly in large-scale societies, they have developed innovative ways of blending ethnography and survey research.
- ✓ Survey research requires a certain design and usually draws from a sample.
- ✓ Respondents: people who respond to survey; the subjects of a study.
- ✓ Random sample: a sample in which all population members have an equal chance on inclusion.
- ✓ Variables: attributes that differ from one person to the next (age, gender, religion, occupation, income, and political party preference).
- ✓ Ethnography can be used to supplement and fine-tune survey research (see recap 13.1 on page 283).
- ✓ A combination of survey research and ethnography can provide new perspectives on life in complex societies.
- ✓ Because we must be able to detect, measure, and compare the influence of social indicators, many contemporary anthropological studies have a statistical foundation, yet ethnography remains a crucial field technique as well.

ANTHOPOLOGY AND ETHICS:

- ✓ AAA Code of Ethics: Sensitivity regarding cultural differences
 - 1) Inclusion of host country colleagues in research planning.
 - 2) Establishment of collaborative relationships with host country institutions.
 - 3) Inclusion of host country colleagues in dissemination/publication of research.
 - 4) Effort to ensure that something is "given back" to the host country (financial or otherwise).
- ✓ Anthropology and Terrorism:
 - 1) Anthropologists must study and understand roots of terrorism and violence.
 - 2) Example of Project Minerva (p. 284).
 - 3) Discussions of relationship between the military and anthropologists.
 - 4) Example of the Pentagon's Human Terrain System (HTS--p. 284).

THEORY IN ANTHROPOLOGY OVER TIME

- ✓ **Evolutionism** (cultural)
 - 1) Lewis Henry Morgan and Edward Burnett Tylor are the early "fathers" of anthropology.
 - 2) Morgan claimed that humans evolved through a series of stages:
 - Savagery (lower, middle, upper).
 - Barbarism (lower, middle, upper).
 - Civilization (lower, middle, upper).
 - Morgan's brand of evolution is known as unilinear evolutionism, because he assumed there was one line or path through which all societies had to evolve.
 - Critics object to Morgan's use of the terms "savagery" and "barbarism."
 - Morgan is well known for *The League of the Iroquois*, anthropology's earliest ethnography.
 - 1) Tyler developed his own evolutionary approach to the anthropology of religion; he, too, proposed a unilinear theory:
 - Animism.
 - Polytheism.
 - Monotheism.
 - Tyler, like Morgan, is interested in survivals, practices that have survived in contemporary society from earlier evolutionary stages.
- ✓ **The Boasians**
 - 1) Franz Boas (Columbia University) is the father of the four-field approach to anthropology.
 - 2) He contributed to cultural, biological, and linguistic anthropology.
 - 3) Boas's theoretical approach favored historical particularism, which is the idea that histories are not comparable; diverse paths can lead to the same cultural result.
 - 4) Boas was not interested in unilinear evolution; he was interested in diffusion. Boasians stress the importance of diffusion, or borrowing from other cultures:
 - Culture trait (bow and arrow).
 - Trait complex (hunting pattern).
 - Culture area (geographic area).
 - 5) Historical particularism rejected comparison and generalization in favor of an individuating historical approach. In this rejection, historical particularism stands in contrast to most of the approaches that have followed it.
 - 6) Cross-cultural comparison is alive and well in contemporary anthropology.

✓ **Functionalism**

- 1) Focuses on the role (function) of culture traits and practices in contemporary society.
- 2) Bronislaw Malinowski
 - Another father of ethnography—he studied the Trobriand Islands extensively.
 - Malinowski believed that all customs and institutions in society were integrated and inter-related, so that if one changed, other would change as well. Each, then, was a function of the others.
 - Malinowski also believed that humans had a set of universal biological needs, and that customs developed to fulfill those needs (needs functionalism).
 - Lastly, Malinowski asserted that ethnography could begin anywhere and eventually get at the rest of culture.
- 3) Alfred Reginald Radcliffe-Brown
 - Radcliffe-Brown urged cultural anthropologists to focus on the role that particular practices play in the life of societies. His particular brand of functionalism is often called structural functionalism.
 - Radcliffe-Brown's view was that the function of any practice is what it does to maintain the system of which it is a part.
 - He also believed that customs, practices, social roles, and behavior function to keep the social system running smoothly.
 - He also advocated a synchronic (study of societies at one given time) as opposed to a diachronic approach (study of society across time).

✓ **Configuration**

- 1) Ruth Benedict
 - Benedict stressed that culture traits—indeed, whole cultures—are uniquely patterned or integrated.
- 2) Margaret Mead
 - Mead was interested in how cultures varied in their patterns of enculturation.
 - Mead's view was rather in line with Boas. Her finding supported the view that culture, not biology or race, determines variation in culture.

✓ **Neoevolutionism**

- 1) Neoevolutionists contended that there was a need to reintroduce within the study of culture a powerful concept—evolution itself.
- 2) Leslie White
 - White's approach has been called general evolution, the idea that over time and through archaeological, historical, and ethnographic records, we can see the evolution of culture as a whole.
 - White, however, was not a unilinear evolutionist. White realized that particular cultures might not evolve in the same direction.
 - White tracked the evolution of a culture based on the amount of energy it harnessed per capita per year.
- 3) Julian Steward
 - He showed that culture evolved along several different lines.
 - Steward was basically in line with White; however, he claimed cultural evolution was measured by looking at technology and the environment.

✓ **Cultural Materialism**

- 1) Marvin Harris developed this theoretical perspective.
- 2) Building on White and Steward's ideas, Harris asserted that cultures are multilayered
 - Infrastructure (technology, economics, and demography).
 - Structure (social relations, forms of kinship and descent, and patterns of distribution and consumption).
 - Superstructure (religion, ideology, and play).
 - Harris claimed that infrastructure determines structure and superstructure.
 - Harris took issue with anthropologists that overemphasized traits of superstructure.

✓ **Science and Determinism**

- 1) Harris gave voice to how many anthropologists characterize the field; he claimed that anthropology is a science.
- 2) Mead viewed anthropology as a humanistic science.

✓ **Culture and the Individual**

- 1) Leslie White (neoevolutionist mentioned above) believed that cultural forces, which rested on the unique human capacity for symbolic thought, were so powerful that individuals made little difference. He believed that cultural forces created "great individuals."
- 2) Alfred Kroeber also stressed the power of culture. He call the cultural realm, whose origin converted an ape into an early hominin, the superorganic. Kroeber's ideas are the basis of what would become cultural anthropology.
- 3) Emile Durkheim, a famous French anthropologist, based his theory on what he called the "collective unconscious." He believed that anthropologists should study those larger systems, which consist of social positions—statuses and roles—and which are perpetuated across the generations through enculturation.

✓ **Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology**

- 1) Victor turner examined how symbols and rituals are used to redress, regulate, anticipate, and avoid conflict. He examines these symbols as a hierarchy of meanings, from their social meanings and functions to their internalization within individuals.
- 2) Clifford Geertz is the anthropologist most frequently associated with interpretive anthropology. Geertz definid culture as ideas based on cultural learning and symbols. Interpretive anthropology approaches cultures as texts whose forms and, especially, meanings must be deciphered in particular cultural and historical contexts.

✓ **Structuralism**

- 1) Claude Levi-Strauss's structuralism aims not at explaining relations, themes, and connections among aspects of culture but at discovering them. He asserts that human minds have certain universal characteristics, which originate in common features of the Homo Sapiens brain. These common mental structures lead people everywhere to think similarly regardless of their society or cultural background. Among these universal mental characteristics are the need to classify: to impose order on aspects of nature, on people's relation to nature, and on relations between people—to impose "structures."
- 2) One of the most common means of classifying is by using concepts of binary opposition—good vs. bad, black vs. white, etc.

✓ **Processual Approaches**

- 1) One process approach is "practice theory," which recognizes that individuals within a society or culture have diverse motives and intensions and different degrees of power and influence. Practice theory recognizes a reciprocal relation between culture and the individual.

- 2) Another process approach is called "action theory." Edmund Leach, a famous action theory anthropologist, focused on how individuals work to achieve power and how their actions can transform society.

✓ **World-System Theory and Political Economy**

- 1) After WWII, anthropology turned away from "primitive" and nonindustrial societies, assumed to be somewhat isolated and autonomous, to contemporary societies recognized as forged by colonialism and participating fully in the modern world system.
- 2) World system approaches have been criticized for overstressing the influence of outsiders, and for paying insufficient attention to the transformative actions of nonindustrial societies.

✓ **Culture, History, Power**

- 1) There has been a return to an interest in local agency.
- 2) There also remains an interest in power as studied by world-systems theorists.
- 3) Hegemony: concept in which subordinates comply with domination by internalizing their rulers' values and accepting domination as "natural."
- 4) Pierre Bordieu and Michel Foucault both study the concept of hegemony. They are interested in theoretical concepts that relate to social influence and power dynamics.

Notes on *Why Do We Talk?*



- ❖ Language is complex and requires thousands of thoughts and decisions.
- ❖ From birth, language is all around us.
- ❖ Language is unique to humans.
- ❖ Language is about the sharing of thoughts.
- ❖ How did language evolve? Is it instinct or is it evolution?
- ❖ It is a sophisticated skill, but acquisition seems easy for kids. Why is this?

- ❖ Dr. Roy:
 - To understand language acquisition, he turned his home into a lab and studied his own son for two years.
 - This was called the "Speech-Home Project."
 - Babble-----word-----two words-----sentences.
 - 240,000 hours and 16,000,000 words collected and recorded.
 - Transcripts are still being created.
 - Cooing is important: "ga ga" to "wa wa" to "wader" to "water"
 - At 5 years old: 5,000 words

- ❖ Adults: use 15,000 words per day. Language and primates:
 - Chimps cannot learn simple words.
 - No control over vocal tract.
 - It is humans' unique anatomy that allows for speech.
 - Also, the human brain is required for speech.

- ❖ Steve Steere experiment:
 - Accident and then a stroke damaged the portion of Steere's brain that allow for the articulation of words. He can understand words, but he can't talk.
 - The study of Steere, have allowed the brain to be mapped more explicitly.

❖ Dr. William Pfeiffer:

- When do newborns respond to speech?
- He claims babies are listening in the womb.
- He tracks via electrodes how newborns respond to sounds.
- Babies respond, in particular, to the sound of the mother.
- The mother's sounds stimulate auditory systems.

❖ Noam Chomsky: the father of linguistics:

- Language is innate: sentence structure, meaning, and the processing of sounds are intrinsic.
- The language window closes.
- Language: nature vs. nurture.
- The forbidden experiment: raising a child in isolation.
- Feral child studies, like the Oxana Malaya situation, do shed some light on language for isolated children.
- Oxana did speak some words (it was discovered that she did have some human contact from ages 1 to 3).

❖ Dr. Turnofski:

- Forbidden experiment with birds: the zebra finch.
- Zebra finches lose the ability to sing if they are kept in isolation.
- Their song is just a croak if they cannot imitate adult birds.
- Offspring continue to imitate croak if that is all that they hear.
- However, they can return to normal song over a number of generations.
- The conclusion is that we are built for speech, but imitation is part of the formula.

❖ Dr. Vargha-Khadem:

- The KE Family experiment. They sound like they are deaf, but they are not.
- It actually turned out that a chromosome had a broken piece (DNA mutation FOXP2).
- But the speech abnormality was also passed on to family members who were fine.