
Cultural Variation: Subcultures and Countercultures

9/8/10

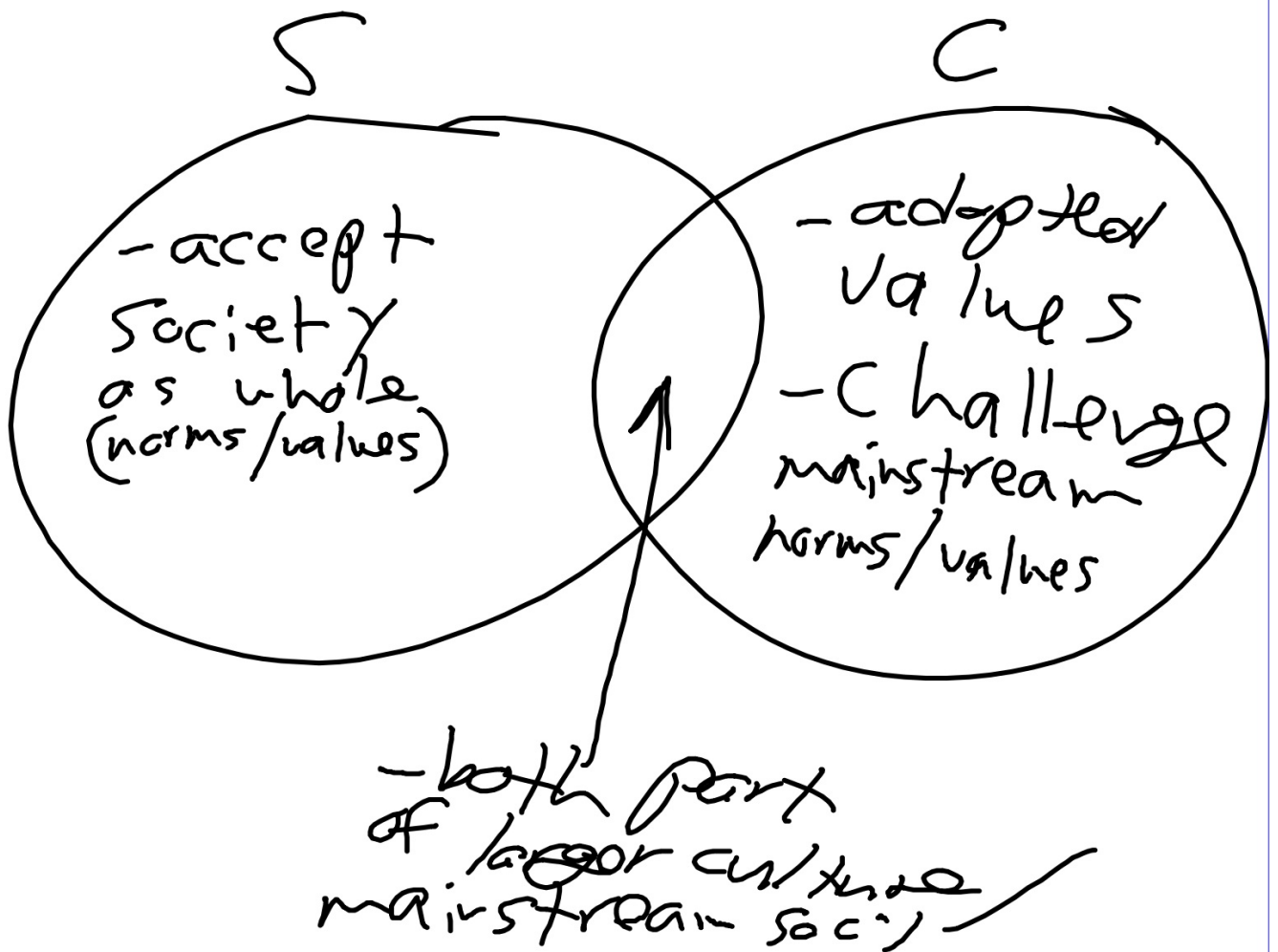
3. Cultural variations within cultures (12 min.)

Subculture

- Groups that share traits with each other but not the larger society
- Examples are groups organized by age, gender, politics, or geography
- ~~Most do not reject all of the values of the larger society~~
- ~~Most~~ **subcultures** do not threaten the larger American culture

Counterculture

- **Countercultures** adopt values that are designed to challenge the values of the larger society
- Examples are groups such as cyberpunks, anarchists, the Mafia, and hippies



4. Sub vs. Counter culture (5 min.)

Reading Check

Contrast

What is the difference between a subculture and a counterculture?



Answer: *Subcultures accept most values of the core society, but have certain variations, such as language, not shared by the larger society; counterculture rejects the values of larger society and substitutes its own set of values and cultural patterns.*

5. Investigating a Sub or Counter culture (15 min.)

Investigating a Subculture

Please go to our classes Wiki page, and use the link titled "Subcultures" to research your groups subculture/counterculture.

Create a list of the ways in which your subculture has different norms, values, language, etc. than mainstream culture.

In you groups,

(one person) will read the research out loud

(one person) will jot down notes about the subculture

(one person) will keep track of time

(together) you will write a brief paragraph summarizing your findings.

(together) you will report your findings

note: The summary paragraph must be written by everyone (that means you should rotate writing each sentence...I should see multiple types of handwriting on your paragraph). Make sure to tell me if you are looking at a sub or counter culture.

Some good ones to look at are: Biker, Bodybuilding, Cosplay, Cybergoth, Emo, Fandom, Furry, Goth, Hippie, Hip-Hop

6. Sharing (10 min.)

Report Your Findings

Please read your summary to the class.

Please answer any teacher/student questions.

Closing (5 min.)

What factors account for cultural variations within cultures?

What is a subculture?

What is a counterculture?
