

DEFINING INTERCULTURAL

GOING BEYOND NATIONS

Culture is the learned norms, practices, languages, and patterns of communication that are shared by a group of people in a given place and time.

Each one of us belongs to multiple cultures. We share culture with people in our generation and by living through a particular time, such as the coronavirus pandemic. The various languages you speak might influence and be influenced by our cultures. Other aspects of our identity such as gender, religion, race/ethnicity, class, and education are all aspects of our group belonging.

Culture is complex, and can be thought of like a tapestry. We need to consider the different threads of culture that we have learned from and are influenced by in our lives. These threads will influence our expectations and inform our sense of right and wrong.



INTERCULTURAL PRACTICES

SELF AWARENESS

In learning about intercultural interactions you will come to understand yourself and your position in society.

ETHICS AND VALUES

Intercultural interactions ask that you situate your judgments in the context of your own culture.

LEARNING

A life long commitment to being curious about the many differences between people.

LISTENING

Listen carefully before speaking, take time to consider your responses, and thinking about possible interpretations.

ADAPTATION

Involves changing styles of communication to bridge understanding and facilitate learning.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

As you learn about privilege it is natural to feel a sense of responsibility to advocate against oppression

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