



# Cultural Framework: Preparing and Experiencing Another Culture through Study Abroad

Dennie L. Smith, Professor

Texas A&M University

[denniesmith@tamu.edu](mailto:denniesmith@tamu.edu)



# Research

- Effects of the experience can be broken down into five categories:
  - Language learning,
  - Cultural immersion,
  - Foreign connection,
  - Personal growth
  - Career development.
  
- HungChih Yu





# Changing Perceptions

- Experiencing the cultural structure of another country ultimately **changed perceptions** of the cultural structure of America.
- Alternative definition of their own **race and culture** and viewed the race and cultures of others differently.
  
- Bryan



# Student Centered: Engagement

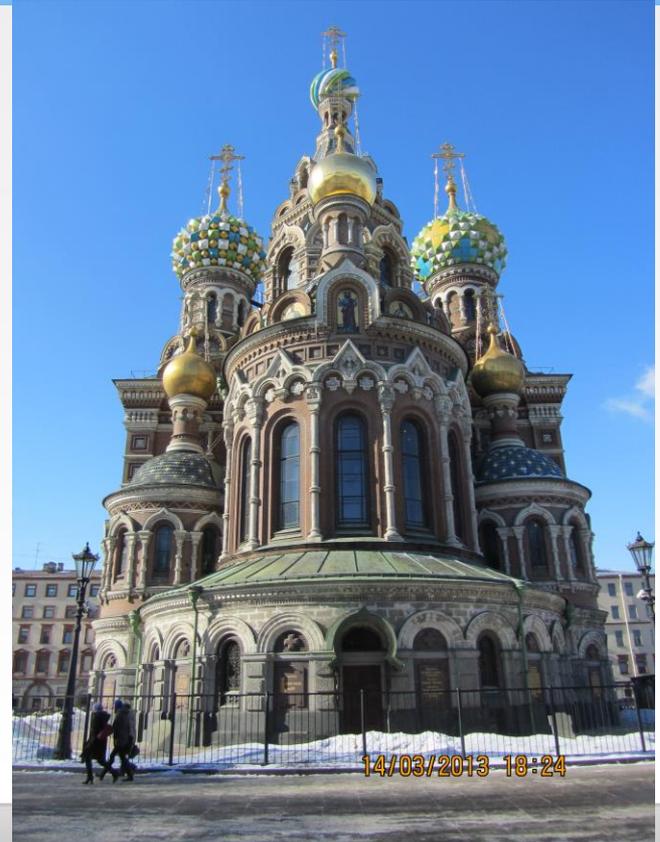
- Conceptual Tools for Learning
  - Frame of Reference
  - Prejudice
  - Language
  - Cultural Framework





# Frame of Reference

- Looking at Cultures with a Limited Point of View
- Frame of Reference
  - Ethnocentrism





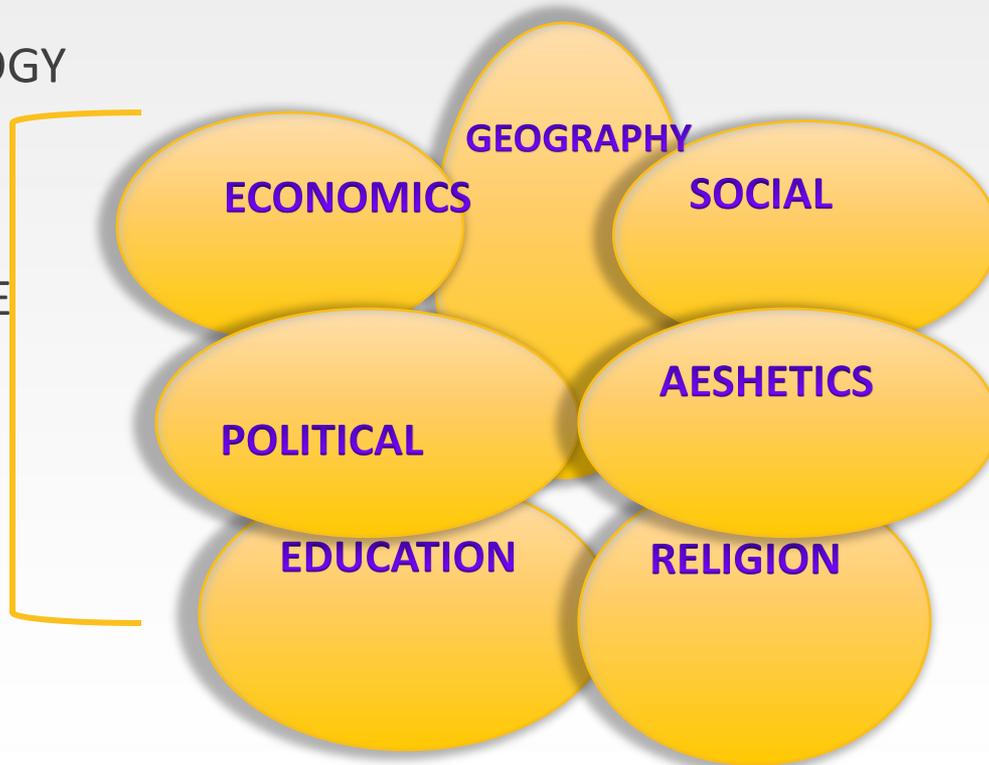
# Language

- English
- Spanish and more...
- SC: From this experience I saw how easily it is to be discouraged to even try the few **Spanish words** I knew, and how being thrown into a different culture can be offsetting. This showed me how ELL students may feel in my classroom, and how beneficial it can be to my students to learn **background knowledge** of their culture to make them feel comfortable and at ease while maybe even incorporating some into my class. Just by seeing how much **more comfortable** I was with someone who tried to understand me made me see how great of a barrier it is for ELL students and academics.



# Cultural Framework

- TECHNOLOGY
- HISTORY
- LANGUAGE





# Compare and Contrast

- What you know?
- What you don't know?





# Power of Questions: Geography

- Geography
  - What are the land forms?
  - What is the climate?
  - What are the weather patterns?
  - What are the natural resources?
  - ...

Costa Rica









# Power of Questions: Religion

- What religions or beliefs are practiced?
- What are the traditions and customs practiced?
- What are the religion symbols?







# Power of Questions: Social

- What is the family structure?
- What are the social classes?
- What are the social gatherings?
- How do people spend leisure time?







# Power of Questions: Economics

- How do people make a living?
- What are the primary industries?
- What are the imports? Exports?





### 1. Coffee Cherries

Kopi Luwak begins life as does any other coffee, as plump red berries on a coffee tree.



### 2. The Luwak

For reasons known only to the Luwak the cherry is selected and then eaten.



### 3. Natural Kopi Luwak

Once the cherries have been digested they come out looking like this!



of this Indonesian grain, naturally processed by the digestive system of a marsupial called **Luwak**.

### In case you are wondering...

- ◆ The Luwaks are the best coffee tasters in the world, they eat only the berries that are in the exact point of ripening.
- ◆ Their digestive system digests only the skin of the berries and the enzymes in the animal's stomach reduce the bitterness of this coffee.
- ◆ They are omnivorous. Coffee is a seasonal fruit so it isn't always available for the Luwak to eat.
- ◆ This coffee was invented by the natives of Sumatra, Indonesia.

### 6. Dried Beans

Once dry the papery parchment cracks and the coffee beans s



### 7. Pounding

Next, the dried coffee beans are pounded causing the brittle parchment to fragment and fall



### 8. Winnowing

The parchment has broken into dust and chaff which is removed through winnowing



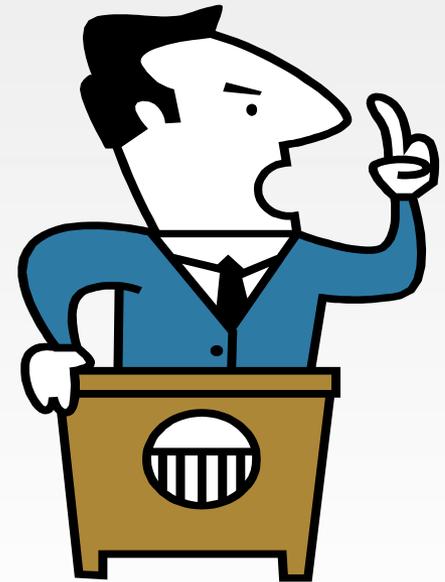






# Power of Questions: Political

- What are the main components of government?
- How do leaders get their positions?
- What are the major conflicts within the culture?
- What are the major conflicts with other countries?





# The Power of Questions

- How are artifacts about the culture displayed?
- What are some of the art forms?
- What does music represent in the culture?
- What dances are popular?



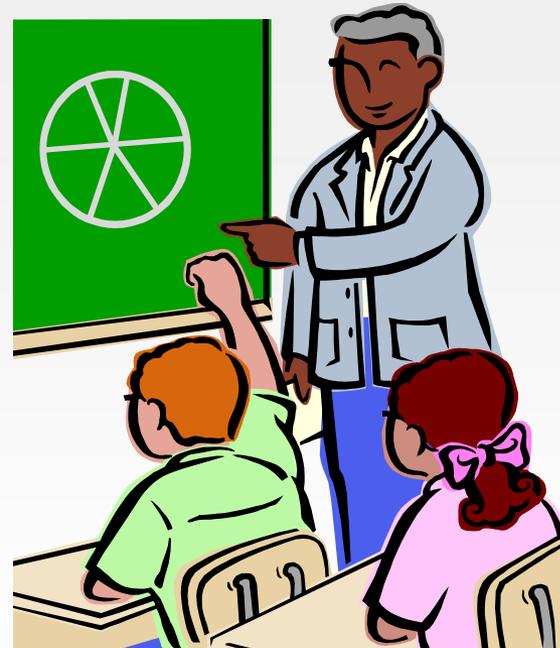






# The Power of Questions: Education

- How is education provided?
- What is the curriculum at various levels?
- How are teachers trained?
- What is the structure of education?
- How do students access higher education?







- I learned that it is good to put yourself around new people, around people who see life differently and have **different perspectives**, because you can learn so much from other people or places.
- Our first stop was to a market where we got to see some of the local people selling food in tents. I had never even been to a market in America so I **didn't know what to expect**. In this market and in several other places we went to you had to pay in order to go to the bathroom which was **different** for us.



## Student Comments

- The cultural changes we **experienced** were massive, and allowed us to apply what we had already learned in class.
- We got **see first hand** some of the everyday things that take place in Costa Rica. For example, the elementary school dancers, crop development/harvest, the farmer's market, and the rainforest itself.



- I learned better when I got to experience different things or be able to have a visual when learning something new. During the trip I enjoyed the Costa Rica food and walking around in the town. The part that was nerve racking for me was the **money system and having to speak Spanish**. I only knew the greeting language to get me by.





A lot of what we learned had to do with **opening up** our minds to accept/embrace different types of people and cultures. Learning about things like cultural framework have been resourceful in becoming more **open-minded** as an individual.



- This trip was definitely a great way to learn a new **culture** besides the one we are use to. I'm glad I am studying to become a teacher because I traveling to different countries will help me understand each student in my classroom.
- I have been able to expand my frame of reference and see the adventure that lies ahead of me when I am willing to go outside my **comfort zone**.
- I wish there was some way for me to convey what an impact it has been for me, but I do not think I will really to be able to do that until I use what I learn to make **an impact on the education and lives** of all people who set foot in my classroom.







- They have a very different way of life than we do and it was interesting to see how **trusting** they are with everything. I thought it was very weird that they just leave their doors to their houses open all the time and that they have their Christmas trees outside on their front porches.













- The amazement I had towards the world around us when I looked up at night and saw billions of stars in the sky, the soreness I felt after hiking for 5 hours in one day, the bloating I experienced after eating so much food at the **organic farm**, the admiration I felt towards our tour guide, the friendliness I felt from the locals, and most of all, the relationships I formed with my group.
- The biggest first for me, however, would be leaving the country. While traveling out of the United States for the **first time was somewhat scary**, I felt safe and at home with those I was so blessed to travel with.





- From this experience I saw how easily it is to be discouraged to even try the few **Spanish words** I knew, and how being thrown into a different culture can be offsetting. This showed me how ELL students may feel in my classroom, and how beneficial it can be to my students to learn background **knowledge of their culture** to make them feel comfortable and at ease while maybe even incorporating some into my class. Just by seeing how much more comfortable I was with someone who tried to understand me made me see how great of a barrier it is for ELL students and academics.







- I want to take this time to thank Dr. Smith and his wife, Lana, along with the donors and all who were involved in making this incredible trip possible for our class. Living in a completely different culture than what I am used to for a whole week helped me to broaden my **frame of reference** more than I thought possible.
- Going into a teaching world in which there will be **diversity** in the classroom, this class has prepared me accordingly. We learned many important concepts that ultimately lead to **opening up our minds to understanding** and embracing diversity. A lyric from the song in our class video states, “open up your eyes, keep your eyes open”.



# Video

- Eyes Wide Open
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0xYBBq9ERo>
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- Costa Rica 2012 Study Abroad Field Trip
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOvctc7FPnE>
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