

## **Culture (Definitions)**

- **A set of values and beliefs, norms and customs, and rules and codes that socially defines a group of people, binds them to one another, and gives a sense of commonality (Trenholm & Jenson, 2000)**
- **A system of shared beliefs, values, customs/rituals, behaviors and artifacts that the members of a society use to cope with their world and with one another, and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning (Hall, 2002)**

## **Characteristics of Culture**

- **Culture is learned and transmitted.**
- **Culture is shared.**
- **Culture involves perception and interpretation.**
- **Culture is subject to change.**
- **Culture is expressed as behavior.**
- **Culture affects our identity**

**Intercultural Communication** – communication between people whose **cultural frameworks** are different and important enough to create **dissimilar interpretations and expectations** about what behaviors should be used to create shared meaning.

**Microcultures** – a collective with a conscious identity and grouping existing within a larger culture.

### **Types of microcultures**

- Social identification (voluntary or involuntary) – Marked by social class, education, age, occupation, religion, geography, wealth, gender.
- Heritage – Involving common origins, race or family ties.

**Communication** – the management of messages for the purpose of creating and sharing meaning;

Communication is a process that is:

- Symbolic – using verbal and nonverbal symbols to represent and create meaning
- Continuous – ongoing
- Irreversible/unrepeatable
- Transactional – simultaneously sending/receiving messages

Communication is systemic: more than the sum of its parts (wholeness); interdependent; hierarchical

Communication has both a content and a relationship dimension.

Content = information being conveyed

Relationship = how the information is to be interpreted given the social relationship between interactants