Life in the United States

Cultural Orientation 2015
You should not leave or go to the bathroom during this presentation.

It is only 30-45 minutes long.
O R I E N T A T I O N  O V E R V I E W

- Social Responsibility
- Equality
- Freedom
- Customs
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Relationships

- Friends
- Romance (dating)
- Love & Marriage
- Roles
- Respect
Friends

• Probably the same as in your country
• Possibly more independent - Less group-oriented.
• “Dutch pay” when eating out is normal.
Falling in Love

- Dating is common in the US.
- PDA (Public Displays of Affection) is common.
- Marriage is not always the final outcome.
Romantic relationships in the US:
- May be serious or casual
- May or may not be sexual
- Any sexual activity must include consent (agreement)
- The legal age to "give consent" in AZ is 18
  - Drunk/high people and minors under 18 cannot give consent
Consent

• What is consent exactly?
  • An informed agreement between two adults of legal age

• “Consent: Simple as Tea” (video)
**Adult Relationships**

- Women are equal to men
  - Must be respected and have equal say
- Both partners must “give consent”
- Dating someone under 18 is dangerous. You MUST always ask for ID if you’re unsure of someone’s age.
- You CANNOT have sex with someone under age 18. If you do, you can be arrested and sent to jail.
Dancing

• She is dancing with you?

• Great!
• But it does NOT mean that she is “yours”!
Roles

- What is a role?
- Parts we play:
  - father / mother
  - son / daughter
  - brother / sister
  - friend
  - boss / employee
  - neighbor
  - customer
  - etc.
At School

- At school - your role is “student”
At School

- **Formality:**
  - Dr. White / “Eddy”
  - Your teacher will tell you how to address them
  - When in doubt, ask
At School

- Respect everyone
- Informal/casual does NOT mean less respect
Respect

- Respect everyone
- Professor or janitor - everyone deserves your respect equally!
Equality

- Women
- LGBT
- Ethnic Groups
- Religious Groups
Equality

- **Women**
  - Must be respected
  - Can dress how they want
  - "Immodest" dress is common
LGBTQ

- LGBTQI = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual
- Everyone must be respected
  - Men can date men
  - Women can date women
Ethnic Groups

Must be respected

• All people are treated equally
• America is the land of immigrants
  • everyone is from somewhere else
• CESL is a diverse institution
  • students from over 30 countries
Religious Groups

- All religions must be respected
Activity
Stereotypes Activity

Small group discussion:

• How are Americans seen in your country?
• How do you think you are seen in the US?

• Why do you think stereotypes are so common?
• How can stereotypes be dangerous?
Freedom
Freedom

- Freedom Defined
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Rights
Freedom

• You have Freedom!
  • Does NOT mean “anything goes”
  • You must know the laws of the United States – your responsibility!
  • YOU CANNOT BREAK THE LAW!
• You must also follow rules & laws
• “freedom” does not mean you are exempted from the consequences of your speech/actions.
Driving

• Driving is a privilege NOT a right
• You must follow all laws and speed limits
• You must pay parking tickets
• You must have:
  • A valid driver’s license
  • A separate endorsement to drive a motorcycle
  • Valid insurance
• It is illegal to drive while high or drunk
Alcohol

• You MUST be 21 to buy OR drink alcohol
• It is illegal (against the law):
  • to give/help an underage person get alcohol
  • to drink & drive (car, motorcycle)
  • to drink in public (must be in designated area)
Drugs

- Marijuana (weed)
  - illegal in Arizona
  - legal for medicinal use only with doctor’s prescription
- Other drugs - also illegal everywhere
- Drug problems? Help is available (see Campus Health)
Rights

• Rights of the accused:
  • Miranda, legal counsel, etc.
  • Even the “guilty” must be presumed innocent.
• Going to court for minor traffic violations common
  • The option of appearing in court is NOT a stigma/further “proof” of guilt
CULTURAL CUSTOMS

What To Do

In Different Countries
Customs

Culture

- Closeness & touching
- Cleanliness
- Personal hygiene
- Manners
- Tipping
Closeness & Touching

- Varies with culture
- In US, when in doubt, don’t touch other people
- Handshake is acceptable when meeting someone for first time
- Fist bump may replace handshake among friends
- Hugging is OK for close friends only
Personal Space

- Personal space also varies by culture
- Americans tend to like a lot of space
- “Back Off! What personal space is all about” (video)
- “VOA American Cultural Norms” (video)
Cleanliness

• Don’t leave waste/garbage in the rooms!
• In the US, you are expected to clean up after yourself
Cleanliness

- Please keep toilets clean
- In the US, you must put toilet paper in the toilet, but not paper towels!
Cleanliness

- Always wash your hands after using the bathroom
Personal Hygiene

• Please wash your clothes regularly - at least once per week!
Personal Hygiene

- It is customary in the US to bathe/shower every day
Personal Hygiene

• You don’t want to be “that” student
Manners

• Always be polite!
• Basic manners: excuse me, please, thank you, after you, etc. are valued in the US
Tipping

- Leave 15-20% tip at sit-down restaurants
- You can leave more for “good” service, but 15% is the minimum tip
All of the information from this presentation is on the CESL website

www.cesl.arizona.edu