

Handout 1, Definitions

CULTURE

Culture "...denotes a historically transmitted pattern of meanings embodied in symbols, a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which [men] communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge about and attitudes toward life." (Clifford Geertz, in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973))

RACE

The category of race was a concept intentionally constructed by European scientists to classify people. According to Lee H. Butler Jr., in *Liberating Our Dignity, Saving Our Souls* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2006), "It was not until 1570 that race developed as a concept. Francois Bernier first employed the category of 'race,' primarily denoting skin color, in 1684 for the purpose of classifying human bodies. The first authoritative racial division of humanity is found in the works of naturalist Carolus Linnaeus in 1735. Hence, it is not until the eighteenth century that political, linguistic, and geographical distinctions became 'race' issues."

ETHNICITY

"Ethnicity may be viewed as a primary bonding, an identification and context of belonging, shared by groups with common language, behaviors, histories, lifestyles, values, and norms." (Peggy Way, in "Cultural and Ethnic Factors in Pastoral Care," in *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, ed. Rodney J. Hunter (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990))

MINORITY

"The term minority has traditionally been used in reference to groups whose access to power is limited by the dominant culture." (Pamela A. Hays, in *Addressing Cultural Complexities in Practice: A Framework for Clinicians and Counselors* (Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2001))