**Course Articulation for** **Unit III. Cultural Patterns and Processes**

 A. Concepts of culture frame the shared behaviors of a society.

1. Explain the concept of culture and identify cultural traits.
   1. Culture is comprised of the shared practices, technologies, attitudes, and behaviors transmitted by a society.
   2. Cultural traits are individual elements of culture and include such things as food preferences, architecture, and land use.
2. Explain how geographers assess the spatial and place dimensions of cultural groups in the past and present.
   1. Geographers use maps and the spatial perspective to analyze and assess language, religion, ethnicity, and gender.
3. Explain how globalization is influencing cultural interactions and change.
   1. Communication technologies (e.g., the Internet) are reshaping and accelerating interactions among people and places and changing cultural practices (e.g., use of English, loss of indigenous languages).

 B. Culture varies by place and region.

1. Explain cultural patterns and landscapes as they vary by place and region.
   1. Regional patterns of language, religion, and ethnicity contribute to a sense of place, enhance place making, and shape the global cultural landscape.
   2. Language patterns and distributions can be represented on maps, charts, and language trees.
   3. Religious patterns and distributions can be represented on maps and charts.
   4. Ethnicity and gender reflect cultural attitudes that shape the use of space (e.g., women in the workforce, ethnic neighborhoods).
   5. Language, religion, ethnicity, and gender are essential to understanding landscapes symbolic of cultural identity (e.g., signs, architecture, sacred sites).
2. Explain the diffusion of culture and cultural traits through time and space.
   1. Types of diffusion include expansion (contagious, hierarchical, stimulus) and relocation.
   2. Language families, languages, dialects, world religions, ethnic cultures, and gender roles diffuse from cultural hearths, resulting in interactions between local and global forces that lead to new forms of cultural expression (e.g., lingua franca).
   3. Colonialism, imperialism, and trade helped to shape patterns and practices of culture (e.g., language, religion).
   4. Acculturation, assimilation, and multiculturalism are shaped by the diffusion of culture.
3. Compare and contrast ethnic and universalizing religions and their geographic patterns.
   1. Ethnic religions (e.g., Hinduism, Judaism) are generally found near the hearth or spread through relocation diffusion.
   2. Universalizing religions (e.g., Christianity, Islam, Buddhism) are spread through expansion and relocation diffusion.
4. Explain how culture is expressed in landscapes and how land and resource use represents cultural identity.
   1. Cultural landscapes are amalgamations of physical features, agricultural and industrial practices, religious and linguistic characteristics, and other expressions of culture (e.g., architecture).
5. Compare and contrast popular and folk culture and the geographic patterns associated with each.
   1. Folk culture origins are usually anonymous and rooted in tradition and are often found in rural or isolated indigenous communities.
   2. Popular culture origins are often urban, changeable, and influenced by media.