

Intro to American Culture

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
#myOrientation

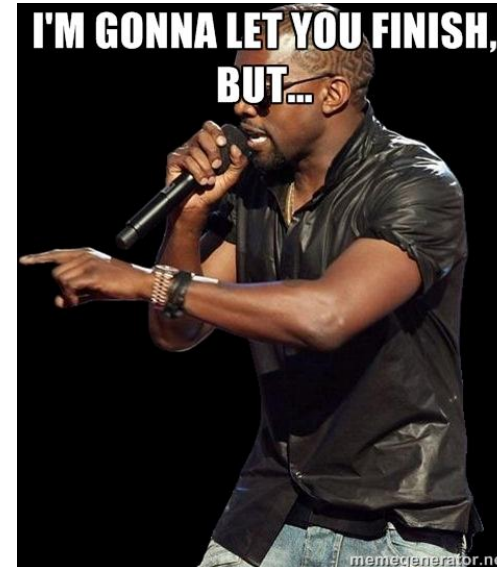
#globull15

The Foundation of American Culture

- Then: “melting pot”
Now: “salad bowl”
- Equality and Diversity
- Value Individualism and Independence
 - Held accountable for own actions
 - Hard working, productivity, accomplishment, achievement

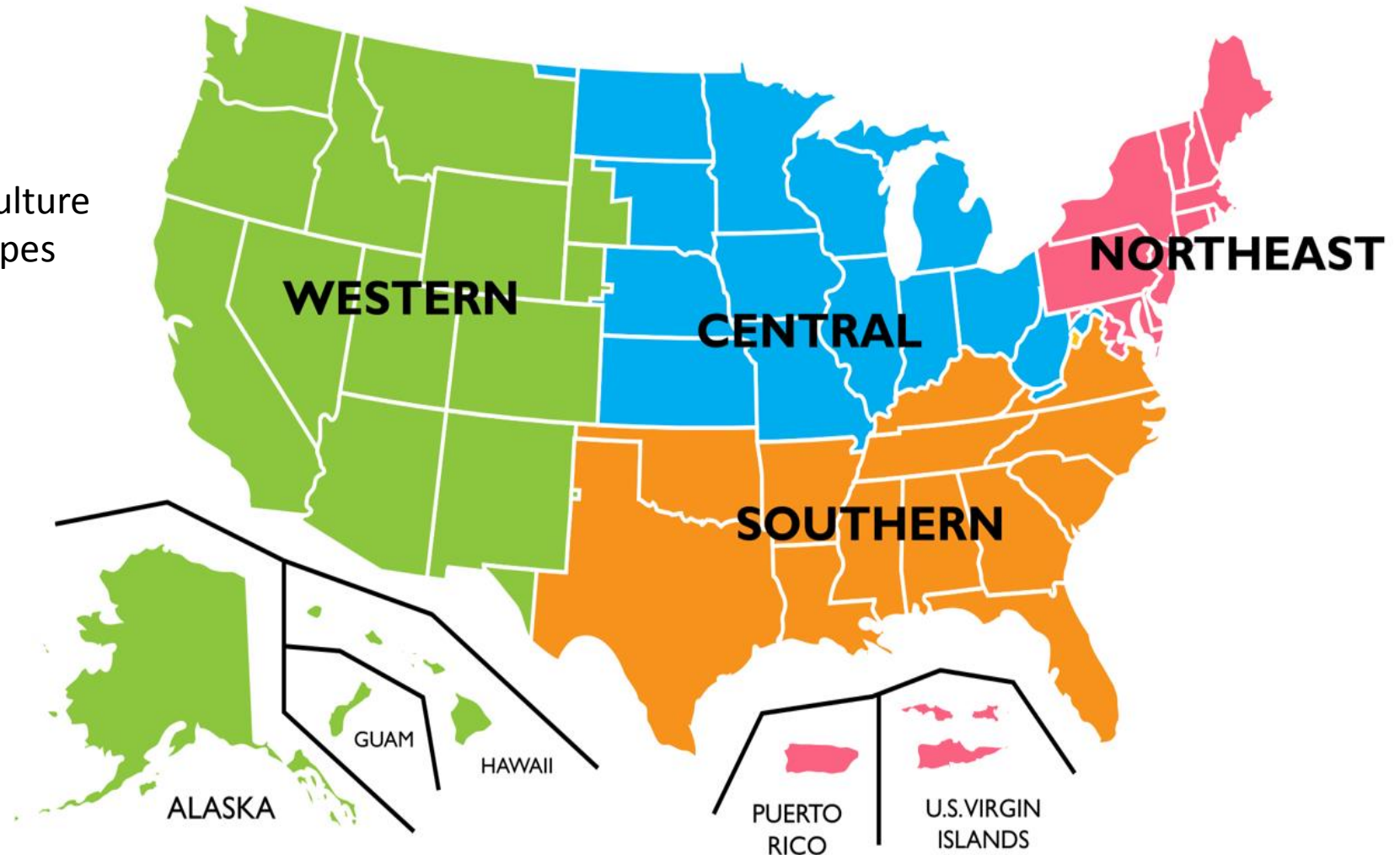


Stereotypes about Americans



Stereotypes about Americans

- *Different regions have their own culture
- *Yes, including their own stereotypes



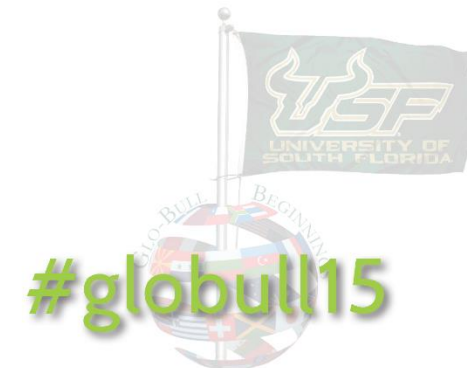
Stereotypes about Americans

Southern (In this case, Louisiana)



VS

Northern (In this case, New Jersey)



Shopping – Discount Department Stores



ADVANTAGES

- Ideal for living on a budget
- Can buy cheaper clothing, food/groceries, household & home improvement items

DISADVANTAGES

- Discount grocery stores have a smaller selection than a supermarket, and you'll likely need to visit a supermarket if grocery shopping
- Often will not carry a variety of specialty items (i.e fancy cheeses, ethnic spices, gluten free, etc)
- Can be overwhelming due to size and number of selections

Shopping – Grocery Stores and Supermarkets



Aldi – No personal guidance; cheaper food; Fewer amenities (i.e no bags, shopping cart is loaned out to customers)

ADVANTAGES

- Reasonable or low prices of goods
- Easy & quick
- Freedom of selection
- More options than discount department grocery



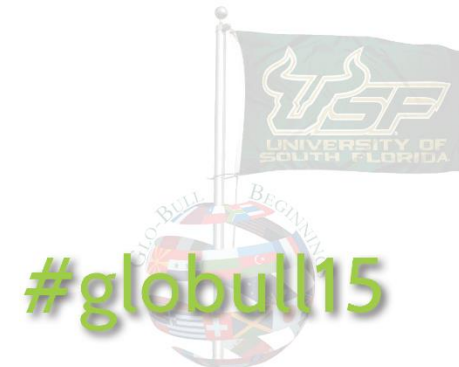
Winn Dixie – Mid-range pricing; Less customer service support

DISADVANTAGES

- Does not provide various services such as free home delivery, credit facility and after sale service



Publix – Slightly pricier with higher quality of selection; More personal guidance; Always spotless & clean



Shopping



ADVANTAGES

- Can have hundreds of shopping options
- Food court
- Multiple department stores
- Movie theaters



DISADVANTAGES

- Crowded (especially around American holidays)
- Food court
- Can be pricy (Look for sales or seasonal discounts!)

American Fashion - Men



American Fashion - Women



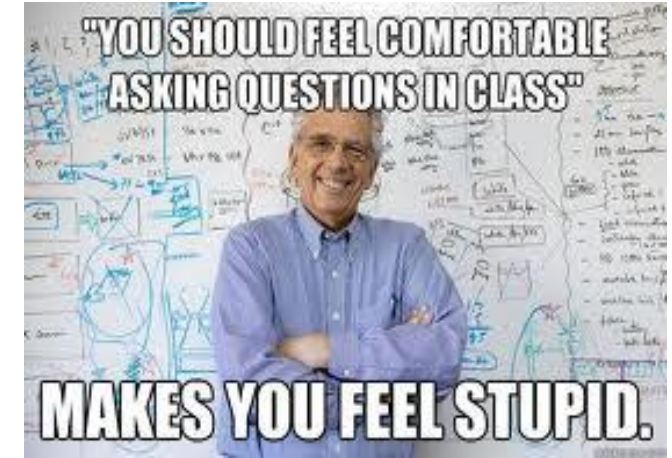
Florida Fashion

*Due to the humid weather in Florida, it is common for shorts and thinner shirts year round.

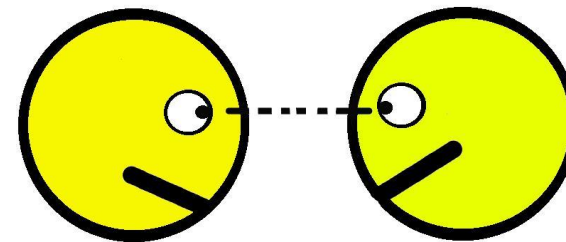


Communication

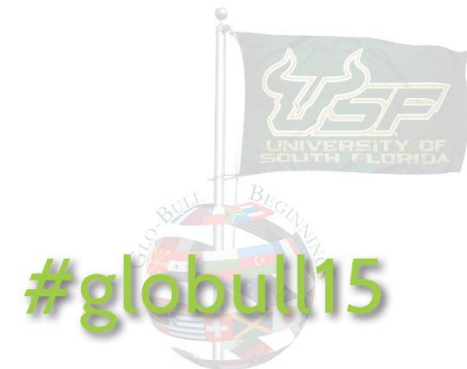
- Direct - “to the point”
- Ask a lot of questions
 - Sign of interest/clarity
- Body Language
- Slang/Sarcasm
- Formal vs. Informal
 - Professor, Staff
 - Other students
- Greetings



Eye-Contact

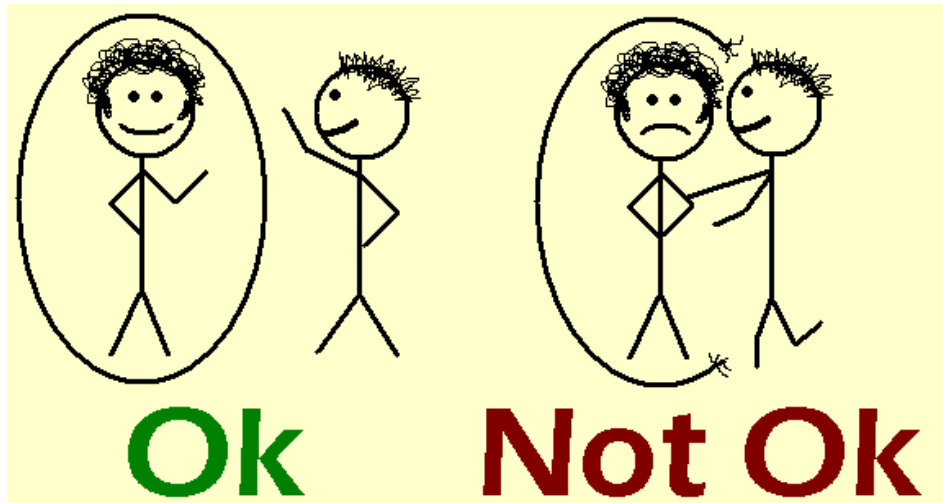


Communication: Personal Space



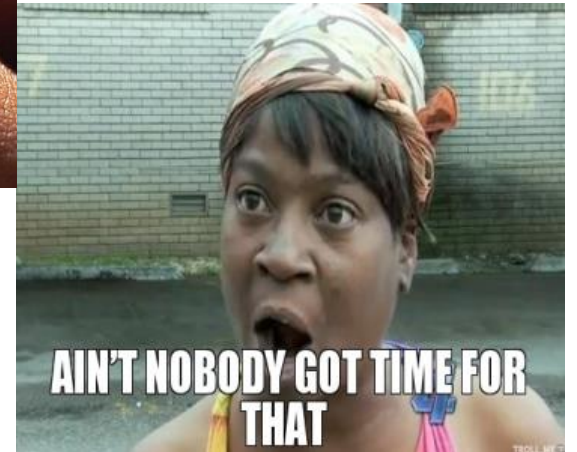
Communication: Personal Space

In the U.S, many people prefer to keep one to two meters' space between friends and family members, and up to three meters between strangers and business associates



Time

- Be on time!
- Classes, appointments, work, group meetings
 - Being late = sign of disrespect
 - Arrive early
- Social Settings
 - More flexible
 - “fashionably late”



Recreational

- Holidays
 - Independence Day (4th of July), Thanksgiving, Halloween, Christmas, Labor Day, Memorial Day
- Sports
 - Football, Soccer, Hockey, Lacrosse, Baseball
- Food
 - Pizza, Burgers/Hotdogs, Garbage Plates, Fried/Fast Foods, Apple Pie
 - Large Portions!



* There are regional differences in preference within every aspect of American culture

Tipping in Restaurants

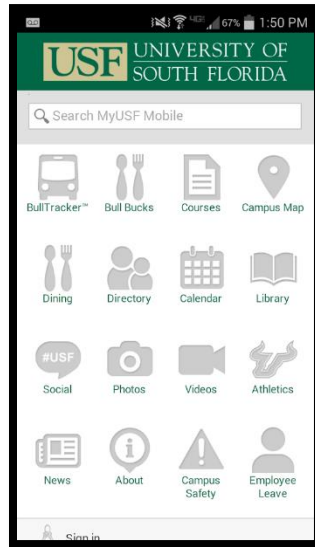
- Waiters/Servers make \$2.13 an hour as the national minimum in the U.S.
- Servers depend on tips to make their living
 - 15% of the bill (if server does a poor job)
 - 18% of the bill (if server does a standard job)
 - 20%-25% of the bill (if the service is outstanding)
- If you receive bad service, you should speak to management, not just ignore the tip as the server is unaware of the situation.
- In some places a clearly displayed "Service Charge" or "Gratuity" might be automatically added to a bill, especially for party sizes of 8 or more. Check your bill for these charges before tipping.



Geography



5 Useful Phone/Tablet Apps to Navigate USF & the United States



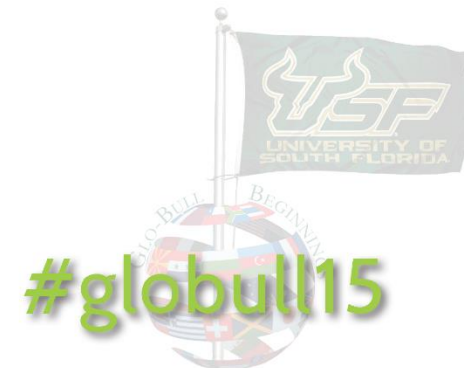
1) MyUSF

What it does: Track the USF Bullrunner Bus System; pulls up a campus map; athletic events; campus safety tips; dining options, USF calendar, your courses, etc



2) WeChat

What it does: Allows you to send text messages, voice calls, voice messages, facetime & video chat, and much more with a WiFi connection.



5 Useful Phone/Tablet Apps to Navigate USF & the United States



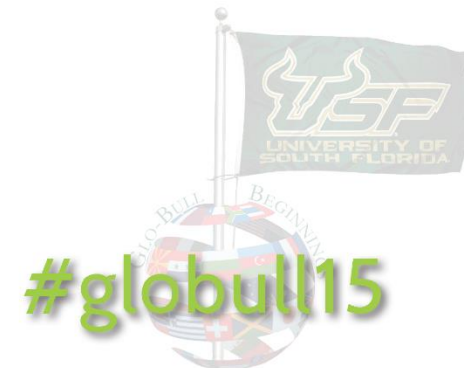
3) Around Me

What it does: Identifies services (ranging from Banks/ATMs, bars, coffee shops, hospitals, restaurants, movie theaters, etc) based on your location.



4) Google Translate

What it does: Easily translates 80+ different languages



5 Useful Phone/Tablet Apps to Navigate USF & the United States

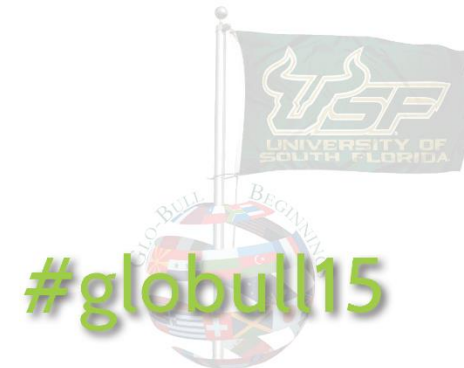


5) FreeRice

What it does: An online game that offers fun trivia questions on geography, mathematics, world pop culture, etc.

**For every correct answer in the game, FreeRice.com donates 10 grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Program.

**The website cautions that “WARNING: This game may make you smarter. It may improve your speaking, writing, thinking, grades, job performance.”



Getting a Driver's License in the U.S

www.gathergoget.com

The screenshot shows the Gather Go Get website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Checklist, Document Help, Office Locations, Renew Online, FAQs, and News. The main heading reads "Gather Go Get" in large blue letters. To the right, there is a "FLORiDA card" logo with the tagline "more than a license". A green banner below the heading states "Starting Jan 1, 2010: NEW DRIVER LICENSE & ID CARD REQUIREMENTS".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains text about new documentation requirements for residents renewing or obtaining a new driver license or identification card. It includes a blue box with a "10-19-09" date stamp and a statement regarding the Department of Homeland Security's extension of material compliance deadline. Below this, it lists documents that must be brought to an office visit, such as original documents for identity, social security number, and residential address. It also provides a "START" button.

The right column is titled "If you need to come in..." and contains a form for a personal checklist. The form includes fields for Citizenship, Date of Birth, Current license/ID Expires On, and County or Zip. It also has a section for "Have you legally changed your name due to marriage or a court order?" with radio buttons for "No" and "Yes". A "START" button is located at the bottom of the form.



Helpful Resources

- Family and friends
- USF Office of International Services
- USF Counseling Center
- USF Student Health Center
- Student Organizations
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
 - iBuddy Global Friendships Program

