Philippines and Filipino-Americans

Dr. EunMi Cho
유은미
您恩美
eunmichoho@csus.edu
California State University, Sacramento
History

- **Spanish Colony**
  - Spain colonized the Philippines and the 2000 islands which became a part of the Spanish East Indies from 1565-1898.
  - Roman catholic missionaries converted most of the inhabitants.

- **Early Filipino immigration to the U.S.**
  - The first Filipino (Luzonians) set foot in North American in Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo on board a ship.
  - The second wave of Filipino immigration to the U.S. occurred from 1906-1934 where they occupied California and Hawaii.
History

- Early Filipino immigration to the U.S. continued...
  - The Third wave occurred in 1934 but stopped because of WWII.
  - The Citizen Retention and Re-Acquisition Act of 2003 made Filipino-Americans eligible for dual citizenship in the U.S. and the Philippines.

- Spanish-American War
  - The Spanish American War began in Cuba in 1898 and reached the Philippines on June 12, 1898.
  - The island was ceded to the United States by Spain in 1898 after the Spanish-American War.
History

- **Filipino Victory and American Rule**
  - In 1899 Treaty of Paris, Spain sells the Philippines to the United States for 20 million dollars.
  - The 3 year Philippine-American War (1899-1902) between the United States and sovereignty and the dissolution of the Philippine Republic.

- **WWII**
  - WWII left the Philippines demoralized and severely damaged.
History

➤ Independence

• With the U.S. victory of the south pacific after WWII, the Philippines attained total independence on July 4, 1946.

• 1990, the Immigration Act of 1990 allowed those given amnesty in 1986 to reunite with their families.
Geography

- Filipino Immigrants
Geography
Geography

- The Philippines, officially the Republic of the Philippines, consists of 7,100 islands.

- Located in Southeast Asian, straddling the South China Sea in the west and the Pacific Ocean in east, with Malaysia in southwest, Indonesia in south, and Vietnam in west, Taiwan and mainland China to the north.

- Capital: Manila located on Luzon island; the three stars on the Philippines flag represents the three main islands: Luzon, Visayas, Mindinao.
Geography

➢ More than 100 million people live in the Philippines, making it the 12\textsuperscript{th} most populous country in the world.

• Ethnic makeup of the Philippines is Christian Malay (91.5%), Muslim (5%) and Buddhism, and other makes up 3%.
Politics

- Government is organized as a presidential unitary republic, where the president functions as head of state, the head of government, and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

- The president is elected by popular vote to a six-year term, during which he or she appoints and presides over the cabinet of secretaries.
Language

• Many speak American English because of American colonial influence in the country’s educational system.

➤ Language spoken in the U.S.
• The smallest percentage of individuals who had problems with English.
• Tagalog is the fifth most spoken language in the U.S.
• Under the U.S. occupation, English began to be taught in schools and by 1901, public education used English as a medium of instruction.
Language spoken in the U.S. continued...

- English is used for educational, governmental and commercial purposes.

- Filipinos use a mixture of English and Filipino words for phrases also known as "Taglish."
Interpersonal Relationships

- They thrive on interpersonal relations so it is advisable to be introduced by a third party.

- It is crucial to network and build up reputation with associates just in case you need assistance in the future.

- Presenting the proper image facilities building a relationship.
Greetings

- “Hello” is widely understood.
- When a man meets a woman, he usually waits for the woman to offer her hand first.
- Filipinos get the attention of one another by making eye contact and raising and lowering their eyebrows.
Display of Respect

➢ If you are invited to a Filipino home, it is thought that you bring sweets or a small gift to the host.

➢ They use a lot of non-verbal communication such as raising eyebrows or lifting the head upwards.

➢ Respect to elders is important.

➢ Several symbolic ways for respect given to elders is use of language by calling older Filipino “Po” and older siblings, cousins and family friends as “kyua” and “ate (pronounced as /ah-the/).”
Display of Respect

- The most ritualistic custom of showing respect to elders in the greeting or salutation of **Mano (Spanish for hand)**. An honoring gesture to show respect for elders. It is taking the elder’s hand to your forehead.
General Etiquette

- Initial greetings are formal.
- A handshake with a welcoming smile is the standard greeting.
- Close female friends may hug and kiss when they meet.
- Don’t point fingers but use whole hand.
Status, Role Prestige

Social Acceptance

• Values social acceptance and see education as a way to provide upward mobility. Color of skin, beauty, and money help determine a person’s social position – a light-skin. Family position and patron-client relationships are part of achieving success. Government officials, wealthy friends, and community leaders sponsor hundreds of weddings and baptism each year.
Status, Role Prestige

➢ Social Acceptance continued...

• Money to buy consumer good indicates power. Wealthy people lead Western lifestyles.

➢ Social Status

• Approximately 3.899 million Filipinos in the U.S..
• 82% ages 5 and older are English proficient.
• 70% of Foreign born Filipino are English proficient.
• 37% of Filipino-Americans have some college education.
• There are approximately 500,000 Filipinos living in Los Angeles.
• Other locations – San Francisco, New York, Honolulu, San Diego and Chicago
Marriage and Family

- All civil marriages are for life because civil divorce (for violation coming after the marriage) is banned, although annulment (for violation before marriage) is permitted.
- There are no arranged marriages.
- Men are expected to marry.
- Young professionals wait until their late twenties to marry, and engagements of five to seven years, during which time the couple becomes established financially, are not uncommon. Divorce is illegal, but annulment is available. Interfaith marriages are rare.
Family and Kinship Structure

- The family is the center of the social structure and includes nuclear family, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and honorary relations such as family friends, godparents and etc.

- Many children have several godparents.

- Authority in the household gravitates to people’s age and usually male.

- The extended family is the basic unit of Philippine society.

- One child is expected to remain at home to care for the parents and grandparents.
Family and Kinship Structure

- The home may include children from the extended family, and single aunts and uncles.

- Fathers carry and play with children but are unlikely to change diapers. Grandparents who live in the home are the primary care givers since both parents work.

- Needy relatives live in a provided household and childcare help.

- Young people may work their way through college by exchanging work for room and board.
Family and Kinship Structure

- Nieces and nephews are referred as to one’s own children and cousins are referred to as sisters and brothers.

- Unmarried adult women may legally adopt a sibling’s child.

- Indigenous tribes live in clan groups. People have a strong sense of belonging to a place.

- New Year’s Day, Easter, and All Saint’s Day are the most important family holidays.
Gender Roles; Reproduction

- **Gender Roles**
  - The traditional roles of the female were to work in the gardens, care for the house, care of the children.
  - Traditionally, the men were in charge on cultivating land.

- **Reproduction**
  - Each couple will have many children.
Childhood and Socialization

- **Childhood and Socialization**
  - Typically, children will be surrounded by their families immediate and extended.

- **Socialization**
  - Filipinos usually make friends easily; they tend to be warm and hospitable.
  - They find it rude to say “no” directly.
Childhood and Socialization

- Socialization continued...

- **Utang na loob** meaning “debt of gratitude” or “reciprocity.” It is a network of favors asked and favors repaid. The “payment” is dependent on one’s ability to pay, and does not have to be in material form. Filipinos are honored to be asked a favor and in the same way, not embarrassed to ask for a favor in return.

- **Pakikisama** meaning “smooth social interaction.” One will go along the consensus of the group, even act pleasantly, when he feels hostile. He rarely raises his voice and is careful about criticizing others.
Childhood and Socialization

Socialization continued...

• Amor propio meaning “self-esteem.” A Filipino is actually expected by other Filipino to be sensitive to feelings of others, to avoid hurting the amor propio.

• Bayanihan is “cooperative labor” especially in a community project. Filipinos will often help each other as a group to affect the good of a person, a family or a community.
Adolescence, Adulthood and Old Age

- **Adolescence**
  - Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS): 1 in every 10 Filipino (6-24 years) is out of school.

- **Adulthood**
  - Filipinos are known for having close family ties. Although millennials may differ from their parents, family-oriented values are still alive with this generation.
  - Millennials still care about giving back to the family, and even keep alive the Filipino tradition of giving their first paycheck to parents.
Adolescence, Adulthood and Old Age

- Adulthood continued...
  - Contributions to the family are a way of saying thanks and taking on bigger purpose.

- Old Age
  - Older people as percentage of total population – 5,905,000; 6.1% (2012) / 23,633,000; 15.3% (2050)
Filipino and Filipino-Americans and Disabilities

Causation

• Traditional beliefs: **Naturalistic** explanations might focus on the mother’s failure to follow prescribed dietary practices during pregnancy. For example, squid (because it might get tangled in the woman’s body and cause the umbilical cord to wrap of the fetus’s neck), crab (because it might cause clubbed fingers and toes), black coffee (because it might result in a dark-skinned baby), and taro root (because it is believed to cause the baby to have eczema or skin problem)…
Causation continued...

• All of the pregnant woman’s food craving should be immediately satisfied or the baby could be born prematurely or have a birthmark. If pregnant woman’s cravings are not satisfied, the baby will end up drooling because the mother did not get her food craving satisfied...
Filipino and Filipino-Americans and Disabilities

- Causation continued...

  • Avoidance of explicit taboos such as sitting on steps or standing in a doorway (this could cause the baby’s head to be blocked during passage through the birth canal), arguing with relatives (may result in complications or miscarriage), and walking over a rope (which could result in delayed expulsion of the placenta).
Filipino and Filipino-Americans and Disabilities

➢ Religious Beliefs

• The **traditional deep faith in God** may reinforce a fatalistic orientation whereby a disability is accepted as God’s will.

• Disability in a child, however, also may represent a divine punishment for sins or moral transgression against God, committed by the parents or their ancestors.
Filipino and Filipino-Americans and Disabilities

- Religious Beliefs continued...
  - Spiritual attribution contributes to a shared sense of hiya (shame) entire family; further negatively affect the chances of sibling to find desirable marital partners because of presumed hereditary taint and the strong belief in bad blood (na sa dugo) or a familial disorder.

- An older child or an adult with a so called hidden disability (e.g., cognitive impairments, emotional disturbance) without ostensible physical origins may be viewed as having a weak will or a frail character (Araneta, 1993)
Filipino and Filipino-Americans and Disabilities

- **Supernatural Aliment**

  - Infants who are chronically irritable and engage in prolonged, inconsolable crying are presumed to be troubled by evil spirits (PAPEP, 1982). Similarly, children with serious emotional disturbances or disabilities such as autism as well as epilepsy are often traditionally described as being possessed, the victim of angry evil spirits (Church, 1986).
Services in California for Filipino-Americans

- Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV)
- Filipino Educational Center
- Filipino Aid Hotline Phone
- Tulungan Center (Family Health Center)
Filipinos in the U.S. Fact Sheet

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/fact-sheet/asi...