

Cultural Differences in Education Systems

Case Study: China

Mandatory education took effect in 1986 with the People's Republic of China Compulsory Education law; children can receive nine years of education and financial support.

The nine years of compulsory education includes 6 years of primary school and 3 years of secondary school. Admittance to higher education is limited, offering 1-2% of those who pass the entrance exam a spot in the universities. Those who are not admitted study in other countries or must find employment after secondary school. Higher education consists of junior college, bachelor's degree, master's program, and doctoral degree.

Classes are taught in Mandarin or Cantonese depending on your location within China and mastery of the language is extremely valued.

Emphasis is placed on Chinese and Math which make up 60% of the curriculum for primary and secondary school. They are also the only two subjects students are tested on for their university entrance exam. Teamwork is highly stressed in every curriculum and collectivism is valued.

	U.S.	China
Faculty Teaching Method	Interactive and lecture based classes	Collaborative work environment. Teachers and parents are highly involved in the learning process.
Instructor Role	Their role is to instruct their classes, as well as provide further help to struggling students via office hours.	Their goal is to encourage team work, selflessness, and respect. Extra help is provided and parent-teacher relationships are necessary for success.
Student Role	Responsibilities include: consistent attendance, coming to class prepared, and to be attentive.	Students have a hard work ethic and it is their responsibility to keep up with their classmates.
Relationship	Students are informal towards their teachers and have close relationships.	Formal relationships with their instructor and questioning an instructor's teaching method or information provided is not encouraged. Relationships are based off of a hierarchy with students at the bottom.
Grading	Grading is on a scale of 0-100, anything over a 65 is considered passing.	Grading is on a scale of 0-100, anything over 60 is considered passing.
How Grades are Determined	Final grades are determined off of several factors and the forms of evaluation are weighted differently.	Final grades are based off of different forms of evaluation: quizzes, homework, and exams.

Cultural Differences in Education Systems

Case Study: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's school systems have transformed vastly in the past 80 years. Previously, only children who came from wealthy families were the ones that could afford to be educated.

Today, education is free to all citizens, and there are many institutions available for all levels of education.

The importance of education is detailed in the Qur'an and religion is at the center of the education system.

In the 1960's, the first school for girls was built and now women make up over half of those attending educational institutions. On the contrary, women are still not allowed to study certain topics, making it difficult for them to join the labor market. Today, some Saudi companies are starting to create a

'women's day' (Al-Yom al-Nisawi) in Saudi Arabia.

Cultural Differences in Education Systems

Case Study: Russia

Compulsory education lasts for nine years. After this, they have the choice to further their education to secondary school, which lasts two years. From here, they can attend a higher educational institute in which they can achieve a specialized degree in a subject of their choosing.

Higher education started in Russia in the middle of the 18th century. Education has always been highly valued and over 50% of Russia's citizens have a higher education.

Universities are currently transitioning to resemble American and British educational systems, consisting of a four year degree and a two year master's program.

Primarily taught in Russian

	U.S.	Russia
Faculty Teaching Method	Interactive and lecture based classes	Lecture, seminar, independent work, and classroom tutorials.
Instructor Role	Their role is to instruct their classes, as well as provide further support to struggling students via office hours.	Their role is to instruct the class, challenge the students, and occasionally help struggling students.
Student Role	Responsibilities include; consistent	

Cultural Differences in Education Systems

Case Study: Brazil

Brazil has faced a shortage of professionals. This has greatly threatened the legitimacy of laborers in certain fields, especially at educational institutions.

78% of the Brazilian population is functionally illiterate. A majority of these people have attended school, but with inexperienced teachers and the fact that students cannot fail, students wind up graduating without learning the basics.

Public schools in Brazil face issues of large class rooms, lack of staff, and poor infrastructure. They also have insufficient funds to build libraries or provide basic classroom essentials. Families that are rich send their children to private schools which provide better education.

Elementary and Secondary school is somewhat mandatory and higher education is optional.

Only 10% of the Brazilian population has a higher level degree. Those seeking a higher level degree are eligible for Brazil's new Scientific Mobility Program which allows the top 100,000 students to study abroad at a highly recognized institute in the United States. This program encourages academic and research exchange between both countries, and guarantees highly educated and globally aware graduates from the program.

	U.S.	Brazil
Faculty Teaching Method	Interactive and lecture based classes	Structured teaching methods are starting to become more common.
Instructor Role	Their role is to instruct their classes, as well as provide further support to struggling students via office hours.	Professors are typically preoccupied with outside research and it is up to the student to keep up with material.
Student Role	Responsibilities include; consistent attendance, coming to class prepared, and to be attentive.	Their responsibilities include keeping up with the class and handing in all assignments.
Relationship	Students are informal towards their teachers and have close relationships.	A close relationship is valued between the students and teachers.
Grading	Grading is on a scale of 0-100, anything over a 65 is considered passing.	Based on a 0-10 scale, anything below a 3 is considered failing.
How Grades are Determined	Final grades are determined off of several factors and the forms of evaluation are weighted differently.	Final grades are based off a series of quizzes, participation, and the final exam.
Class Participation	Participation is typically a factor calculated into your final grade.	Participation is highly valued and encouraged in the classroom.

Bibliography