

## Culture

Like class, culture can be used to describe the early stages of human development. In that usage culture means the early formative stage of a society. (The term is used analogously to the use of the term in biology, where a culture is an experimental testing sample, that enables the scientist to track the initial developmental stages of an individual, or of a disease.) In its maturing phases, a culture—whether tried out in a lab, or in everyday life on the street—can be observed developing, adopting ever more functional means for carrying forward its organism's forward purposes.

Culture involves the going forward of a society, its adoption of increasingly user friendly and effectual means to solve existential problems. Matthew Arnold's *Culture and Anarchy*. ( 1867 ) is a classic statement of the case for traditional social and cultural values, which, though in many ways class bound and local, have promoted durable values -based behaviors. One might argue that in our time in the west certain same sex group or marriage communities welcome the prospects of new cultural forms which will gradually replace the monogamous models so long heralded by us. While this particular version of a cultural change can meet sharp opposition, threatening, as it seems to, the integrity of family life, there is no doubt that socio-cultural change is a vigorous element in the discussion of society today. It may stand to reason that a culture which so radically reviews some of its assumptions about marriage might equally reexamine a wide range of communitarian assumptions, such as those embodied in our economic, defense, and aesthetic practices.