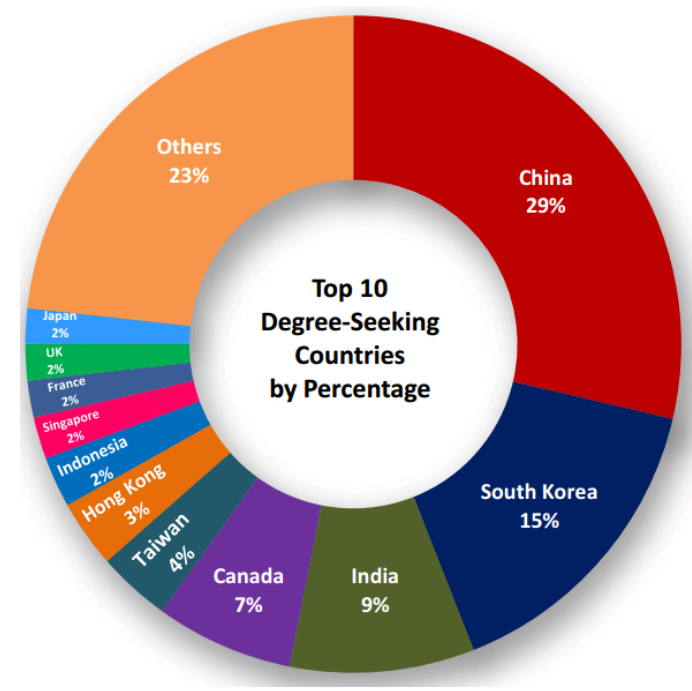
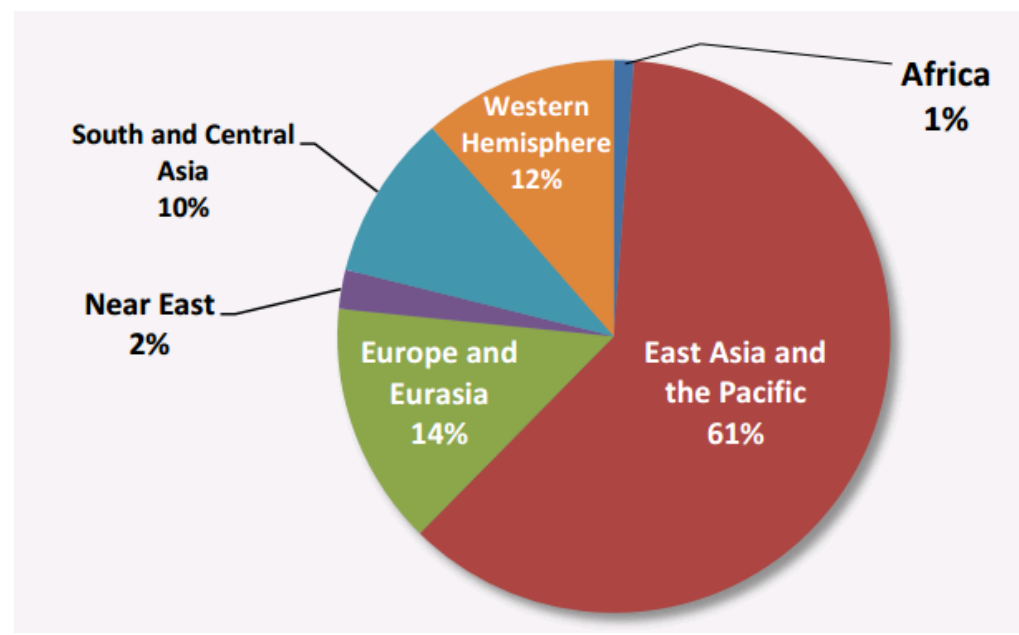


International Student Experience with U.S. Academic Culture

Rebecca Sablo
Assistant Director for Student Services



Fall 2012 International Student Data (UG & G)





Culture Through Proverbs

The early bird gets the worm.
(U.S.)

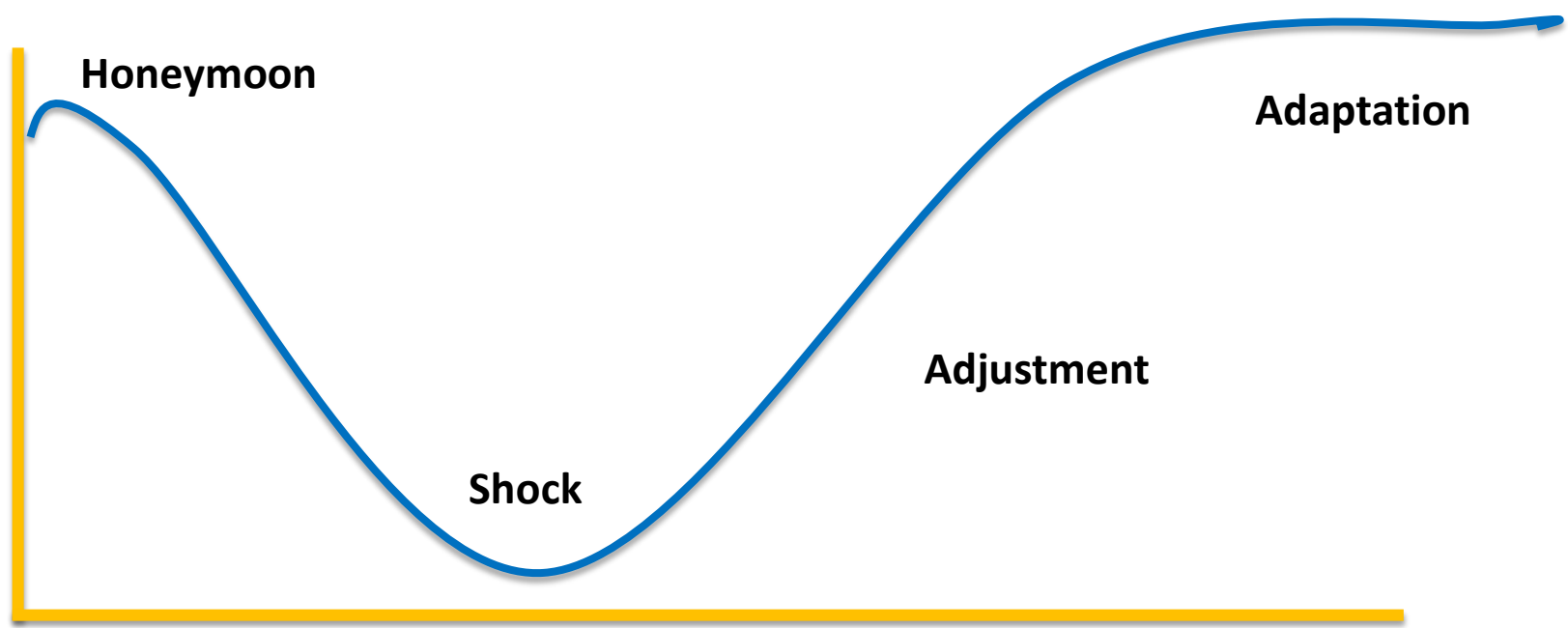
The first bird is the one that
gets shot. (China)

The squeaky wheel gets the
grease. (U.S.)

The nail that sticks up gets
hammered down. (Japan)

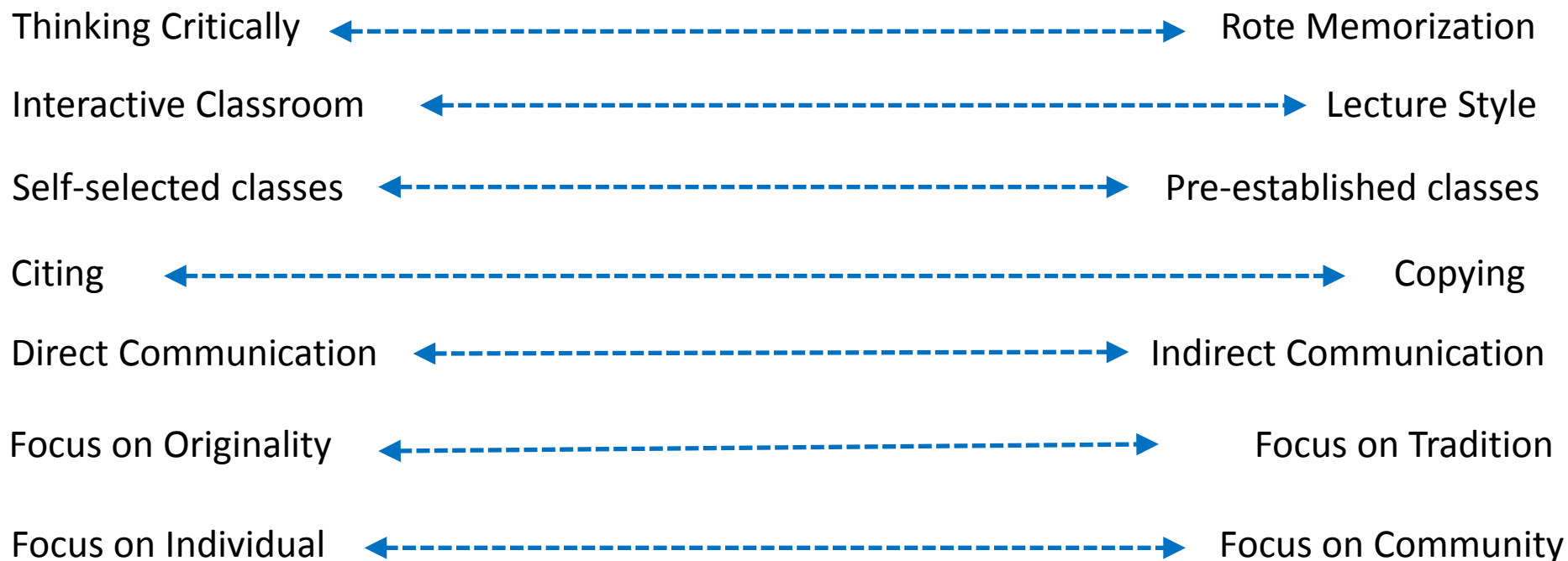


Cultural Adjustment





Continuum of Educational & Cultural Differences





* Adapted from *U.S. Culture Series: U.S. Classroom Culture*
January 01, 2004. Michael Smithee, Sidney L. Greenblatt, and Alisa Eland

US Classroom/Teaching Style: Learner Centered*

Teacher-Centered

Learner-Centered

| | Teacher-Centered | Learner-Centered |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Preferred Teaching Method | Lecture | Lecture, large/small group discussion |
| Instructor Role | Directs learning, source of knowledge, clarifies/interprets text | Present content, facilitate dialogue, demonstrate analytic skills |
| Learner's Role | Listen, take notes, read, memorize, demonstrate memorization through testing | Listen, take notes, read, think critically about content, express opinion in class/papers, demonstrate understanding |
| Learning style | Top-down | Cooperative, participatory, interactive |
| Learning Outcomes | Memorize text & absorb knowledge | Gain knowledge, apply concepts to new situations, use critical/analytic skills |



Additional Difficulties & Cultural Differences

- Asking for help
- Equal access to resources vs. competition for resources
- No one definition of Academic Honesty or Integrity
- Campus Life & Student Support Services
- Changing rules, expectations
- Financial, family pressure
- Imposter Syndrome



Syllabus Review

- Quizzes/Tests/Exams
- Research Papers
- Reflective Papers
- Classroom Participation

Student to Student Advice

- “Be prepared for a totally different way of teaching.” – Qi Tang
- “Don't take classes that are too difficult in your first semester and don't put too much pressure on yourself.” – Yue Sun
- “Study hard and get to know your professors and GSIs”. – Khang Ton
- “Always ask for help. If you don't ask, you won't receive it.” – Ziao Ju
- “Don't be afraid to reach out to your professor or GSI after class or during office hours. – Susan Zhou
- “Berkeley International Office is extremely helpful, but they cannot help you if you don't ask.” - Andjelija Janicijevic

BIO Resources for Students

- Tools & Handouts
 - Tips on Academic Integrity Video
 - Succeeding in the US Classroom
 - Oral Presentation Tips
 - Mingling & Networking Tips
 - Summer 2014 Pre-Arrival Webinars
 - Orientation Sessions focused on Academic Success & Cultural Adjustment



Understanding U.S. Academic Expectations



Your First Year Experience



Navigating the Campus: Who Do I Ask?