

## **HANDOUT 1**

### **GREETINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

India: The "namaste." Place your hands in a praying position at the chest and bow slightly.

United States: Shake hands firmly and make direct eye contact.

Middle East: The "salaam." Begin by pronouncing "salaamu alaykum" (Peace be upon you), accompanied by sweeping your right hand up to your heart.

Malays of Malaysia: Stretch out your hands and touch fingertips with the other person. Then bring your hands to your heart, signifying, "I greet you from my heart." Men can only use this gesture with other men and women may only use the gesture with other women.

Some Aluet: Bang the other party with a hand on either the head or shoulders.

Polynesia: Embrace and rub each other's backs. (This is a gesture performed only by men. )

Maori tribes people in New Zealand: Rub noses.

Some East African tribes: Spit at the other's feet. (Don't actually spit; just pretend to.)

Some Tibetan tribes people: Stick out your tongue at the other person.

Japan: Bow from the waist to a 15 degree angle. This is an informal bow used For all ranks and occasions.

Russia: Shake hands firmly. Follow with a "bear hug" and 2 to 3 kisses on alternating cheeks.

Latin America: Hug (called an "abrazo") and give a few hearty claps on the back.

Some Kenyan tribes: Gently slap palms and grip one another's cupped fingers.

Thailand: The "wai." Like the Indian "namaste," place your hands in a praying position at your chest and bow slightly. The higher your hands on your chest, the greater respect you are showing the other person, but don't put your hands above your head as it may be misconstrued as an insult.

Southern Europe, Central and South America: Shake hands warmly and linger a bit longer than the traditional American handshake. Follow by touching the other person's forearm, elbow or lapel.

Turkey: Clasp both hands in a handshake and hug on both sides while saying, "merhaba" ("greetings"). (This gesture is generally performed among old friends of the same sex.)

Belgium: Three kisses, going from cheek to cheek.