SYLLABUS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 02/2013
CIP CODE: 24.0101
SEMESTER: Departmental Syllabus
COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Issues
COURSE NUMBER: HIST-0211
CREDIT HOURS: 3
INSTRUCTOR: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE LOCATION: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE HOURS: Departmental Syllabus
TELEPHONE: Departmental Syllabus
EMAIL: KCKCC- “issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students.”

PREREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, http://www.kckccbookstore.com/, for the required texts for your particular class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Students learn and apply skills that produce an understanding of a wide range of domestic and global issues.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE:
I. Current events 1
II. Characteristics of a student of contemporary issues
III. Applying the assumptions of an SCI
IV. Myths and Understanding
V. Current events 2
VI. Using Time
VII. Effective reading
VIII. Effective discussion
IX. Current events 3
X. Television and understanding
XI. Television and the assumptions of an SCI
XII. Understanding systemic problems
XIII. Current events 4
XIV. Corporate Power USA
XV. Economic Crisis USA
XVI. Inequality USA
XVII. Globalization
XVIII. Current events 5
XIX. Conflict and violence USA
XX. Global conflict
XXI. Racism
XXII. Current events 6
XXIII. Sexism: Domestic and global
XXIV. The workplace USA
XXV. The environment USA
XXVI. Current events 7
XXVII. The global environment
  A. Population
  B. Natural Resources
  C. Food and hunger
XXVIII. Current events 8
XXIX. Health and welfare USA
XXX. Politics 2000
  A. A political primer
  B. National politics
  C. State and local politics
XXXI. Current events 9
XXXII. American foreign policy 2000: A primer
XXXIII. Summing up and looking ahead

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:
A. The student will be able to demonstrate a deeper and broader understanding of current domestic and foreign news stories.
B. The student will be able to identify and describe important elements of domestic – global systemic problems.
C. The student will be able to describe, explain, and apply the attitudes and thinking skills necessary to understand contemporary issues.
D. The student will be able to demonstrate skills of discussion, listening, questioning, critical thinking (including critical understanding of television), reading, and writing.
COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The student will be able to demonstrate a deeper and broader understanding of current domestic and foreign news stories.

1. The student will be able to identify the two main assumptions of the logic that is emphasized and developed in this class.
2. The student will be able to explain the three elements of complexity that are a prerequisite for understanding.
3. The student will be able to describe the purpose of assuming the perspective of a student of contemporary issues.
4. The student will be able to describe four benefits of the SCI perspective.
5. The student will be able to draw a distinction between the understanding developed as an SCI and ordinary thinking.
6. The student will be able to define myth.
7. The student will be able to describe the difference between myth and SCI understanding.
8. The student will be able to describe two common reasons why adults prefer myth as understanding to SCI understanding.
9. The student will be able to demonstrate three ways to apply SCI understanding to current news stories, including those in *Time*.
10. The student will be able to describe two issues important in Kansas and two important local issues.
11. The student will be able to describe three important foreign policy issues facing the US government.

The student will be able to demonstrate skills of discussion, listening, questioning, critical thinking (including critical understanding of television), reading, and writing.

12. The student will be able to describe and apply four steps of effective reading.
13. The student will be able to relate the process of discussion to SCI understanding.
14. The student will be able to describe two elements of effective listening.

The student will be able to describe, explain, and apply the attitudes and thinking skills necessary to understand contemporary issues.

15. The student will be able to demonstrate continuous mastery of current events on biweekly quizzes.
16. The student will be able to evaluate two benefits and two weaknesses of television as a medium of understanding.
17. The student will be able to describe two ways that television shapes the way we understand.
18. The student will be able to distinguish between the logic of television and the logic of SCI understanding.
19. The student will be able to describe two examples of the impact of television – logic on American institutions.
20. The student will be able to describe two assumptions necessary to continue SCI understanding.
21. The student will be able to explain the meaning and implications (for a SCI) of “contemporary issues are all around us”.

The student will be able to identify and describe important elements of domestic – global systemic problems.

22. The student will be able to define “systemic problems”.
23. The student will be able to explain the relation between the three elements of complexity and the characteristics of a systemic problem.
24. The student will be able to explain how to understand current events as manifestations of systemic problems.
25. The student will be able to identify three elements of complexity.
26. The student will be able to describe two learning discoveries.
27. The student will be able to describe one myth related to the problem.
28. The student will be able to explain the presidential election process.
29. The student will be able to describe three differences between four prospective candidates.
30. The student will be able to define six terms used in politics.
31. The student will be able to describe two difficulties in foreign policy – formulation since the end of the cold war.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:
Outcomes will be measured by:
7 bi-weekly quizzes on current events, 4 tests, a final exam, participation in discussion groups, and 3 written assignments.

SPECIAL NOTES:
This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student’s progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

Kansas City Kansas Community College offers equal educational opportunity to all students as well as serving as an equal opportunity employer for all personnel. Various laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require the college’s policy on non-discrimination.
be administered without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or veteran status and that such policy be made known.

*Kansas City Kansas Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact Director of Academic Resource Center, in Room 3354 or call (913) 288-7670.*
Learning Outcomes
Discipline knowledge and content mastery is expected of all graduates. More specifically, KCKCC is committed to the Learning Outcomes listed below. We believe that competence in the Learning Outcomes is essential for the success of graduates and will enhance their ability to become contributing members of our increasingly complex world. These areas of knowledge and skills are equally valid for all KCKCC graduates, whether they transfer to a four-year college or pursue a career after leaving college.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Communication Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to express, interpret, and modify ideas/information effectively (both written and oral), including but not limited to reading text accurately and correctly; writing with a clear purpose and effective organization; speaking effectively using appropriate styles that suit the message, purpose, and content; and employing active listening techniques.

Computation Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning using numerical data.

Critical Reasoning Learning Outcomes
The learner will understand inductive and deductive reasoning and have the ability to define problems and use data (qualitative and quantitative) to make complex decisions utilizing analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

Technology and Information Management Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to define, collect, organize, analyze, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. The learner will also have the ability to understand basic technology concepts and functionality in order to use technology as a tool to locate and retrieve information.

Community and Civil Responsibility Learning Outcomes
The learner will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and understanding of diverse ideas, values, and perspectives of a culturally diverse world; an understanding of the ethical issues and values that are prerequisites for making sound judgments and decisions; a recognition of the obligation to become actively involved as a contributing member of the community; and a sensitivity to the awareness of aesthetic expression.

Personal and interpersonal Skills Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to work cooperatively and productively with others; to understand and evaluate his/her capabilities; to manage his/her personal growth by setting realistic and appropriate goals.
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES

Know your teacher’s name.

Turn off your electronic devices in class/make paying attention to the work of the class your only concern.

Miss class only when you cannot attend/acquire missed information and materials ASAP.

Know your syllabus.

Know the attendance policy.

Know the requirements for tests and assignments.

Know information about final exam and make-up exams.

Know instructor’s position on use of Wikipedia or other online sources.

Know the instructor’s preferred writing style (APA, MLA, etc.).

Always know your grade.

Contact your teacher ASAP with concerns or questions.

Know the benefits of the academic resource center.

Know if your course has a practicum, service learning component, or other exception.

Use an academic planner.

Know the course withdrawal policy.

Know your instructor’s office hours and make appointments when necessary.

Know the school’s scholastic honesty policy.

Be familiar with the course learning objectives, course competencies, and the college’s 21st century learning outcomes for general education.