

Spokane Falls Community College
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OUTLINE

Prefix and Course Number
Course Title

HIST 105
Historical Roots of Contemporary Issues

Last Modified: Spring 2009

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Employ historical perspective and intercultural approaches to examine historical causes of contemporary global issues from five central themes: A. Humans and the Environment, B. Our Shrinking World, C. Roots of Inequality, D. Diverse Ways of Thinking, and E. Roots of Contemporary Conflicts.
- Recognize that the study of history is both analytical and interpretive and requires the synthesis of information from various sources in various forms.
- Identify and analyze how international economic, social, cultural, environmental, and political issues have created or contributed to the global community.
- Effectively and responsibly identify, analyze, evaluate, employ, and document information from varied sources.
- Ethically use context, evidence, and reason in the synthesis of historical documents, analytical writing, speaking, and comparative thinking.
- Identify and define personal core values, cultural assumptions and biases in relation to those held by other individuals, cultures, and societies.
- Recognize how events and patterns in the past and present affect human societies and world ecologies.

Course Outline

1) HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A. Possible Issue: Global Water Crisis
 1. Ancient cultures and the environment
 2. Anasazi culture and water usage
 3. Industrial Revolution and civilization 's dependence on water
 4. Aswan Dam and Three Gorges Dam
 5. Cambodia's Angkor Wat and private water raiding
 6. Issues surrounding dam removal
 7. Discussion of Global footprint

- B. Possible Issue: Energy, Politics, and Landscapes
 1. Industrial Revolution
 2. Imperial ideologies and the Great Divergence
 3. Oil and Mexico
 4. The Middle East, politics, and carbon fuels
 5. Alternative energies and politics

2) OUR SHRINKING WORLD

A. Possible Issue: Disease and Encounters with the Larger World

1. Roman Empire Pandemic
2. The Bubonic Plague(s)
3. The Columbian Exchange
4. Influenza 1918
5. Ebola
6. Infectious Disease Today

B. Possible Issue: Empire and Globalization

1. American Exchange
2. Spanish silver and the beginnings of the global economy
3. Islands and empire in the Pacific
4. Sugar and slavery in the Atlantic World
5. The "new" imperialism and the rise of liberal capitalism
6. The Great Depression and reactionary politics
7. Global economic institutions and poverty
8. The globalization of culture

3) ROOTS OF INEQUALITY

A. Possible Issue: Gender Inequality

1. Gender and patriarchy
2. Historical understandings of gender, male and female roles, rights and access to power, and expectations across cultures
3. Reproduction and inheritance , and the impacts on inequality
4. How are ideas about gender transmitted across generations?
5. What roles do laws play in perpetuating or decreasing gender inequalities?
6. Impacts of imperialism and globalization on gender, dress, and expected behavior (feminine or masculine)
7. Gender and industrialization throughout the world
8. Globalization , economics , and gender
9. Gender roles today: how have they changed?
10. Should gender values be subject to cultural or religious differences, or should they be considered to be universal?

B. Possible Issue: Slavery

1. Slavery in Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India
2. Slavery in the Americas and Africa
3. Slave Trade
4. Slavery in the United States
5. Forms of Slavery in the World Today

C. Possible Issue: Race and Racism

1. The idea of race and its origins
2. Lineage and belonging in New Spain
3. Caribbean slavery and colonialism
4. The rise of scientific racism
5. Race and nationalism

6. Eugenics and the Holocaust
7. Decolonization
8. New racisms

4) DIVERSE WAYS OF THINKING

- A. Possible Issue: Clashing Civilizations?
 1. Samuel Huntington's, Clash of Civilizations
 2. What is "The West?" (Ex. Greek War of Independence as a factor in creating the concept of "Western civilization")
 3. Rise of Islam
 4. Crusades
 5. Orientalism-<epictions, attitudes, effects
 6. U.S. foreign policy and the Middle East

- B. Possible Issue: Economic Ideologies
 1. Overview of socialism and capitalism
 2. Capitalism's origins and predecessors in the pre-modern world.
 3. Capitalistic activities between 1600 and 1900
 4. Capitalism and Atlantic slavery
 5. Capitalists in the 19th century
 6. The relationship between wealth, racism, and free trade (Late Victorian Holocausts)
 7. Historical critiques of capitalism and wealth accumulation , with focus on Marx, Engels, Lenin, Great Depression, FDR, New Deal, and Nazi Germany
 8. Developments in capitalism and socialism from 1945 to 1975
 9. Overlaps in capitalism and socialism
 10. Reagan's New Federalism/Shenzhen Special Economic Zone
 11. Neoliberal capitalism
 12. Capitalism and socialism being applied towards the same end?

5) ROOTS OF CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS

- A. Possible Issue: Arab-Israeli Conflict
 1. Historical Palestine and Jewish Diaspora
 2. Jewish Settlement in Palestine early 20th Century
 3. Creation of the State of Israel
 4. Rise of Arab and Israeli Political Groups
 5. Series of Intifadas
 6. Camp David Accords
 7. Two-State Solution (?)
 8. The War on Terror and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

- B. Possible Issue: Conflict in post-Colonial Darfur and the Problem of Genocide
 1. Darfur
 2. What is genocide?
 3. Arabic and Muslim Expansion in Africa and the Sultanate of Darfur

4. The Legacy of British Imperialism in the region
5. Independence and Conflict in Sudan
6. De-colonization
7. Pan-Arabism
8. The Cold War
9. From Coup d'Etat to 'Genocide'?