

**CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN**

**INTERNET CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY
(809-197)**

COURSE OUTLINE AND POLICIES (SPRING '09 SEMESTER)

HOURS/WEEK: determined by student
January 12 – May 1

CREDITS: 3 [*Theory-3; Lab-0*]

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John L. Frank
jfrank@cvtc.edu

OFFICE: ECB 1-H
[*Phone 715-833-6475*]

PREREQUISITES: None

OFFICE HOURS*: 1:00 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. (M-T-W)
3:00 p.m. – 3:55 p.m. (W only)
4:00 p.m. – 5:55 p.m. (T only)

**office hours are subject to college-related meetings and travel*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Contemporary American Society examines the network of interdependent social systems that affect learners as employees, family members, and citizens. In this interdisciplinary course learners will study public policy issues that illustrate how our traditional institutions such as family, education, government, work, and media are being changed by global, political, demographic, multicultural, and technological trends. By exploring contemporary issues, learners will expand their use of creative and critical thinking skills in evaluating information, making decisions, advocating positions, and participating in the democratic process. Emphasis is placed on the foundation and structure of American society and the impact that diversity has on its institutions.

COURSE COMPETENCIES AND CORE ABILITIES:

Upon the successful completion of Contemporary American Society, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize the value of diversity in a multicultural society
2. Analyze the foundation and structure of American society
3. Advocate a position on current public policy issues
4. Analyze the methods through which American society resolves disputes
5. Analyze the structures and processes of the family
6. Interpret current trends impacting the family

7. Analyze the structures and processes of education and religion
8. Interpret current trends impacting the education and religion
9. Analyze the structures and processes of work and government
10. Interpret current trends impacting work and government
11. Analyze the structures and processes of the media and interest groups
12. Interpret current trends impacting the media and interest groups
13. Think critically
14. Cultivate global and cultural awareness
15. Demonstrate social interaction (recognize conflict and use conflict resolution skills)

COURSE MATERIALS:

The text for the course is *Contemporary Society: An Introduction to Social Science* [Perry, 12th Edition] and may be purchased at the college bookstore. The instructor may supplement these materials with PowerPoint presentations and/or written comments each week. Be sure to review both the text materials and the instructor-prepared PowerPoints and written comments before completing an **Internet assignment**, **short essay**, **class discussion**, **quiz**, or **advocacy term paper**.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Students enrolled in any online or hybrid course need significant experience using e-mail to send, receive, attach, and download documents. They also need significant experience using a word processing program such as MicroSoft Word and a search engine like MicroSoft Internet Explorer. Students who do not have this experience are encouraged to take the classroom-based version of this course.

It is important to note that the files stored in BlackBoard will utilize Microsoft Word and PowerPoint software. Similarly, the assignments you submit to Blackboard **must** use Microsoft Word software (*not* WordPerfect, Works, ASCI, or some other software). As such, if you are using your own personal computer to complete the course **you must have Microsoft Word and PowerPoint software loaded on that computer** to use the BlackBoard server (the more up-to-date version, the better).

If you do not have this software on your personal computer, you have three options: (1) you may go to one of the CVTC campuses and use one of the terminals in the library or in an open computer lab; (2) you may access the course from another computer (like at a public library) that has the software; and (3) you may order and install the required Microsoft software on your computer (an inexpensive source is www.wisc.edu/wisc which sells the Windows 2007 software package to CVTC students for \$72.00).

SYLLABUS:

There will be a mix of assignments that are due every week. Each week's assignments are collectively worth 80 points. Please see the document entitled "Summary of Assignments and Due Dates" located in the "Course Specific Documents" folder under the "Course Information" button on the BlackBoard Web site for specific assignments and due dates

WEEKS 1 – 3. FOUNDATION/STRUCTURE OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY

Text: Chapters 14 & 15

Topics:

Constitution/Federalism/Congress/President/Agencies/Courts/Budget
Process/Elitism/Pluralism/Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

WEEKS 4 – 6. EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY

Text: Chapters 5 & 16

Topics: Socialization/Ideologies/Public
Opinion/Voting/Campaigns/ Political Parties/Interest Groups/Mass Media

WEEKS 7 - 10. ISSUES AND ADVOCACY IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY

Text: Chapters 7 – 13

Topics: Family/Educational/Workplace/Minority/Diversity Issues

WEEKS 11 – 12. CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY

Text: Chapters 4 & 6

Topics: Causes of conflict/Judicial process/Administrative
process/Arbitration and Mediation

WEEKS 13 – 15. IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY

Text: Chapters 17 – 19

Topics: United Nations/Trade Agreements/WTO/International
Trade/Economic Issues

INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT:

Because of the nature of online learning, Internet Contemporary American Society is essentially an “independent study” of our social system by the student. To complete a regular 16-week online course successfully, a student normally needs to set aside between six and nine hours of time *each week* for course work. Following the completion of reading assignments from the *Perry* text, PowerPoints, instructor’s comments, and various sites on the Internet, students will complete a combination of **Internet assignments**, **short essays**, **class discussions**, **quizzes**, and/or **term papers** each week.

The instructor is available to clarify questions and assignments during the office hours noted at the top of the syllabus. *Students who need more direct and/or greater quantities of instructor guidance are encouraged to take the classroom-based version of Contemporary American Society.*

EVALUATION:

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS:

The course is taught over sixteen (16) weeks. Each week there will be some combination of assignments worth a total of 80 points which may include **Internet assignments** (worth up to 40 points), **short essays** (worth up to 40 points), **class discussions** (worth up to 40 points), **quizzes** (worth up to 40 points), **paper research** (worth up to 40 points), and an **advocacy term paper** due (worth up to 80 points). There is, therefore, a total of 1200 points that may be earned in the course.

Each **problem set**, **quiz**, **Internet assignment**, **paper research**, or **term paper** is due *on or before* the due date listed in the document entitled “Summary of Assignments and Due Dates” that may be located in the “Course Specific Documents” folder under the “Course Information” button after entering the course on the CVTC BlackBoard Web site on the Internet.

All assignments (*except class discussions*) *must* be submitted using the BlackBoard assignment link (specific instructions for using the BlackBoard assignment link may be found in each assignment). Assignments will *not* be accepted by fax, e-mail, regular mail, or posting in the digital drop box. Every assignment that is submitted in the assignment link *must* also have the student’s name at the top of the first page of that assignment. **Assignments submitted to the instructor that do not have the student’s name at the top of the first page of the assignment will be penalized two (2) points (no exceptions!).**

Responses to the **class discussions** must be posted on the Discussion Board of the BlackBoard server *on or before* the established due date for that **class discussion** (you may access the Discussion Board by following the instructions provided to you in the **class discussion** assignment). *Note: Like discussions in the regular classroom, the greater and more substantive your participation, the higher your class discussion grade will be.* [PLEASE

NOTE: Because Class Discussions are interactive learning exercises, students **MUST** participate on or before the specified due dates for those discussions. **Late participation in a Class Discussion will earn zero points (no exceptions!).**]

THIS IS NOT A SELF-PACED COURSE! There is some combination of assignments due *every* week during the course.

LATE WORK:

A student's work ***must be received*** by the instructor via the BlackBoard assignment link ***on or before*** the date listed in the "Summary of Assignments and Due Dates" document. ***Late work will receive a four (4) percent per day penalty.*** That, of course, means that any work (other than Discussion Boards for which a different rule applies) that is turned in more than 25 days late is ineligible for credit. [***PLEASE NOTE:*** Because Class Discussions are interactive learning exercises, students ***must*** participate on or before the specified due dates for those discussions. **Late participation in a Class Discussion will earn zero points!**] Under no circumstances will late work of any kind be accepted for credit after **Friday, May 1, 2009 at 11:59 p.m.**

FINAL GRADE:

The Chippewa Valley Technical College employs an "A - F" grading system along with "+" and "-" designations. For the Internet Contemporary American Society course, the following percentage values have been assigned to those grades:

A	.....	94 - 100%
A-	.....	90 - 93%
B+	.....	87 - 89%
B	.....	83 - 86%
B-	.....	80 - 82%
C+	.....	77 - 79%
C	.....	73 - 76%
C-	.....	70 - 72%
D+	.....	67 - 69%
D	.....	63 - 66%
D-	.....	60 - 62%
F	.....	0 - 59%

A student's final grade in Internet Contemporary American Society will be computed by taking the total number of points that the student earned on the various course assignments and, then, dividing that result by the total number of possible points (1200).

Similarly, a student may compute his/her progress at any point in the course by taking the total number of points he/she has earned on the assignments to that point in the course and, then, dividing that result by the total number of possible points on the assignments to that point in the course. In both cases, the resulting percentage value will be assigned the letter grade noted in the above table.

COLLABORATION, PLAGIARISM, AND CHEATING

As previously noted, this Internet Course in Contemporary American Society is an *independent study*. That means that a student must complete all assignments (with the exception of the class discussions) *without the assistance of or collaboration with any other person* except the instructor, a peer tutor approved by the instructor, or CVTC personnel assigned to assist students with documented disabilities. A student who violates this rule and collaborates with others, plagiarizes assignments, or otherwise cheats in the course will be given an “F” for the course and referred to CVTC administrative authorities for appropriate academic discipline.

CVTC NO-SHOW POLICY

Federal Law *requires* CVTC to remove any student who does not *participate* in the course during the first week of class from that course as a “no-show.” In this online course that means that you *must* complete your Week #1 assignments on or before their due date (which means on or before 11:59 p.m. on Friday of the first week of class)! Simply sending an e-mail or calling your instructor to confirm that you are registered in the course does *not* satisfy this requirement.

Your instructor *is required* to report any student as a no-show who does not complete the Week #1 assignments by 11:59 p.m. on Friday of the first week of class. CVTC will drop any student reported as a no-show without the possibility of reimbursement or reinstatement in the course.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CVTC is committed to quality education and to the success of its students. As such, discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, disability, age, arrest or conviction record, marital status, parental status, veteran’s status, pregnancy, or sexual orientation is prohibited. Sexual harassment is also prohibited. Incidents of discrimination or harassment may be reported to the Equal Opportunity Specialist at 715-833-6341.

Reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids will be available for a qualified student with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accommodations for disabilities may be requested through the CVTC Special Needs Assistant who is located in Room 119A on the Business Education Campus and may be contacted at 715-833-6234. Any information that is shared with college concerning disabilities will remain confidential.

Reasonable accommodations will also be made for a student with sincerely held religious beliefs when that student makes a written request for the same to the instructor five days in

advance of an anticipated absence related to his/her religious beliefs.

Additional information on these topics is available in the “Course Specific Documents” folder that may be located by clicking on the “Course Information” button on the homepage for the course.