

Contemporary Thoughts and Issues – Syllabus

Miss Huffman

Course Description

CTI is a junior/senior level elective designed to allow for the discussion of current events as they apply to the study of society and culture. Students will be required to express their thoughts in open discussion and structured essay. Course curriculum will emphasize the following themes: Culture and Social Change, Gender and Gender Relation, Deviance and Social Control, Race Relations, and Death and Dying.

Course Text

Sociology - Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Supplementary Reading

Article packets distributed each unit.

Assessment

- Unit study guides
- Chapter review questions
- **Article Analysis**
- Article Free Response
- Article Review questions
- Processing of Notes (both lecture and taken from text)
- Quizzes
- Unit tests
- Current Event Essays
- Other activities designed to enrich the learning experience

Article Packets

You will be given a packet of articles for each unit. During the course of the unit, you will be assigned readings within the packet. Those readings will then be reviewed in one of the following ways: Class Discussion; **Article Analysis sheet**; Free Response essay; and/or Review questions.

OVER-

Course Outline

Unit 1 – Culture and Social Change

Time: Four Weeks

Objective 1: Define the concept of culture by using the five components of culture.

Objective 2: Use the concepts of cultural universals, cultural relativism, and ethnocentrism to discuss how we differentiate between cultures.

Objective 3: Identify and describe two specific examples where one of the sources of social change is challenging or has changed traditional cultural values and norms.

Unit 2 – Deviance and Social Control

Time: Four Weeks

Objective 1: Explain the role of deviance within our culture.

Objective 2: Illustrate your understanding of deviant behavior theory, by using three different theories to explain three separate instances of deviant behavior.

Objective 3: Describe how the two main types of social control function within our culture.

Unit 3 – Gender and Gender Relations

Time: Four Weeks

Objective 1: Describe the expectations of traditional gender roles in our culture and identify modern changes in these expectations.

Objective 2: Summarize the past history and current state of sexism and gender equity in our culture.

Objective 3: Describe the traditional characteristics of dating and marriage in our culture.

Unit 4 – Ethnicity and Race Relations

Time: Two Weeks

Objective 1: Identify and differentiate between the concepts of race, ethnicity, and minority group.

Objective 2: Show your understanding of the patterns of minority group treatment, by using three different patterns to explain the treatment of three different minority groups in our society.