



Syllabus

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What You Should Already Know

This course does not have any prerequisites, but you will be required to look up and document information on current events from the radio, television, Internet, and/or newspaper. You should know where to find these resources. Public libraries are always a good place to do a search. You should also be familiar with geography, and this course provides maps to study. This knowledge will help you understand what happens in the world around you—and how you can learn to make your mark in the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

After you have successfully completed this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Identify and define terms that you read and hear in the news. In addition, be able to identify their significance as related to current events.
2. Locate states (in the United States) and nations in the news on maps.
3. Discuss knowledgeably the role of economics in shaping current events.
4. Explain and defend your opinion on current national and international affairs (such as OPEC, NATO, United Nations, and so forth).
5. Describe examples of current events occurring in government on a national, state (or province), and local level.
6. Demonstrate familiarity with Internet sites, periodicals, newspapers, and radio and television programs that report current events.

Course Materials

You will find it beneficial to have access to a globe or atlas, a public library for newspaper and magazine articles, and a dictionary.

There is no formal textbook for this course. Your “text” will be comprised of various articles (from newspapers, magazines, or the Internet) and broadcasts (on television, radio, or the Internet) dealing with current events. You are to choose at least one of these each day to read, watch, and/or hear.

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Assignments

The amount of time you spend on each unit will vary depending on your previous knowledge of the area being studied, but you should plan to spend about 3–4 hours on each unit.

Self Checks

In units 1–6, there are some Self Check questions at the end of the reading material for each lesson. These questions are not graded but will help you to prepare for the Unit quizzes.

Unit Quizzes

The computer-graded Unit quiz questions are the assignments that you will complete at the end of each unit. You will receive feedback on each incorrect answer to help you understand the correct response. These assignments do count toward your grade.

Portfolio Assignments

Units 1–6 each contain a portfolio assignment. Complete each assignment as you complete the unit, but submit them in two groups—Portfolio 1 and Portfolio 2. You will submit the unit 1 and 2 assignments in Portfolio 1 and the remaining assignments in Portfolio 2, along with your final project. For your final project, you will create your own newspaper, video, or audio news broadcast.

Important note about the portfolio assignments: As you read or listen to the news on a daily basis, it is not likely that the stories you hear will be in the same order as the kinds of news classifications asked for in the units. Unit 3 requires economics items; unit 4 requires world environmental and humanitarian items; unit 5 requires U.S. federal government items; and unit 6 requires local government items. However, you do not have to include the completed bibliography for units 3-6 until you submit your final

project at the end of the course. Throughout the course, when you find a report that would fit into a unit, you can enter it into the appropriate portfolio assignment.

The format of your assignments is important. Bibliography items must be typed in a word-processing program; final project items must be in .PDF format for the newspaper or in an acceptable media format for the audio or video news broadcast. Acceptable media formats are .WAV, .MP3, .MP4, .MOV, or .WMF files, or links to online websites where you uploaded your presentation.

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Exams

It is important for you to read and study the material thoroughly. There are about 50 questions on the final exam, and they are similar to those on both the Self Check exercises and the Unit quizzes. Be sure to review each of your units before you take the final exam.

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Grading

There are six Unit quizzes, two portfolio submissions, and a final exam. Assignment and exam weights are shown on the following chart.

Assignment	Percentage
Unit 1 Quiz	10%
Unit 2 Quiz	10%
Portfolio 1 Submission	5%
Unit 3 Quiz	10%
Unit 4 Quiz	10%
Unit 5 Quiz	10%
Unit 6 Quiz	10%
Final Project/Portfolio 2 Submission	15%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	20%

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