

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-120

Comparative World Cultures

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course is a study of non-western societies. Its emphasis is on the comparison of the various facets of these societies; their history, customs, economics, religions, and values. Students will have the opportunity to do individual research and thereby gain an understanding and appreciation of a major culture other than their own. Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to do the following:

1. Describe the major components and characteristics of "culture"
2. Identify the major geographic characteristics of each society studied
3. Describe the society's economy and demographics
4. Describe the history of each society
5. Describe the major values of each culture studied
6. Compare and contrast among the various societies studied
7. Discuss major aesthetic values which may include art, music, literature, etc.
8. Compare American values against those of the societies studied.
9. Develop an appreciation for the societies studied.
10. Assess their own sense of growth in learning about another society

Major Topics

For each society studied, we will cover the major areas:

1. Geography
 - a. What are the salient geographic features of this society?
 - b. How have these features produced this unique society?
 - c. Importance of topography, climate, land and water masses.

2. Demography and Economics
 - a. Population data
 - b. Ratios of urban to rural population
 - c. Categories of occupations
 - d. Natural resources and manufacturing
3. History
 - a. Summary of major political events and trends
 - b. Social and economic evolution
4. Contemporary
 - a. Present trends in economy, politics, and social changes
 - b. Relationship of this society to other present-day societies
 - c. How this society fits into the world culture
 - d. This societies present-day values; religious, social, aesthetic
 - e. How this society compares with American society and its values

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 2500 words of formal writing.

Other Course Information

This course is an Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues core course.