2017

CORE FINC 100-27 Modern Times

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This course analyzes and explores the great events, personalities and ideas of the last 100 years, with an emphasis on the relation between historical and current.

I. Current Topics: August and September

- Current topics will come from the Smith Center Website
- Each student is to read the assigned article from the site and be prepared to discuss the important points.
- A group of three will be asked to do additional web research on the topic and lead the discussion. The group is advised to meet with me prior to the discussion.
- Guest lecturers

https://www.stephensmithcenter.org/

1. Venezuela
2. The Opiate Crisis
3. Rwanda
4. The Global Economy in Retrospect: 1947 to the Present
5. Country Digest
6. Leontief—Nobel Perspectives
7. Efficient Markets
8. Trading at the Speed of Light

Reading: J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*

- Class Discussion of the book
- Attendance at the J.D. Vance, Stephen S. Smith Distinguished Speaker Series, September 29, 2017, 12:00-1:00 Cintas Center

Lectures: Economics and Finance

- Supply and Demand and the Market Economy
- Public and Private Sector Mix
- Macroeconomics
- Global Exchange-Rate Systems
- Exchange Rate Markets
- Input-Output and the Global Supply Chain
- Financial Market

Lectures: Data and Analytics

- Websites
- Bloomberg System
- Basic Excel
II. History: Modern Times—October and November

Text: Paul Johnson, *Modern Times, The World from the Twenties to the Nineties*
- This challenging book will be covered partly from lectures and through discussions
  - Groups will be assigned to present some chapters and lead discussions
  - I will provide lectures on some of the material
  - Guest Lecturers
  - Video covering some of the topics

**Discussion Topics** based on the book will be determined. Possible topics:
- Given the economic advances of the 1920s, what caused the Great Depression?
- Given the economic advances of the 1990s, what caused the 2008 financial crisis?
- How did Hitler, Stalin, and Mao Tse-tung come to power? Are there any Hitler’s today?
- Genocide?
- What leads to war? How did Churchill, Roosevelt, Reagan, Thatcher, and John Paul II work for truth and justice? How did they make the world better?
- After you’ve read about movements for human rights and justice, how did Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Ghandi, Vaclav Havel, and Nelson Mandela work for truth and justice? How did they make the world better? Who are some of the people today that are making the world better?
- What is the history of the US Civil Rights Movement? Where are we today?
- Economic Growth, capitalism, and income distribution
- Class wars and secular wars

**Sample of possible videos**
- Winston Churchill Battle of our Life: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4BVzYGeF0M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4BVzYGeF0M)
- Bio Franklin Roosevelt: [http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt/videos](http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt/videos)
- Franklin Roosevelt Inaugural Speech: [http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt/videos/inaugural-address-franklin-d-roosevelt](http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/franklin-d-roosevelt/videos/inaugural-address-franklin-d-roosevelt)
- Martin Luther King Bio: [http://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-king-ir-9365086](http://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-king-ir-9365086)
- Martin Luther King Speech: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnkIYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnkIYs)
- Margaret Thatcher debate on Socialism: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okHGCz6xxiw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okHGCz6xxiw)
- Vaclav Havel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_SCXfR2wHw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_SCXfR2wHw)

III. Semester Paper—Early December

Each student is required to write a semester paper on a current event
- The paper needs to bring out a relevant historical perspective
- Length: Approximately 10 pages
- The key points of the paper are to be presented to the class as a PPT presentation

**Assignments:**
- Test 1: Covers Current Topics and Lectures 30%
- Test 2: Covers Modern Times Topics and Lectures 30%
- Group-Led Discussions 20%
- Participation 10%
- Semester Paper 18%
- Semester Paper Presentation 2%