**Agriculture in the Economy**  
*Sections: 49, 36, 52*

**Theme Focus:** Investigation of people’s economic, social, and psychological responses to agricultural economics. Includes study of improvements in biological, human, and manufacturing resources and marketing and governmental influences.

**Sample Assignments:** After developing skills with database research and PowerPoint oral presentation techniques, students will prepare oral reports on controversial and ethical topics such as global marketing of grain, the disappearance of family farms, and consumer reluctance in purchasing bio-engineered food products.

**American Schools as Seen Through the Media**  
*Sections: 17, 24, 45, 46*

**Theme Focus:** Exploration of the ways in which the media (print, television, film, music, theatre) has both reflected and shaped society's perception of educational systems, schools, learners, and teachers.

**Sample Assignments:** Critical analysis of the portrayal of schools and teachers in films such as *Stand and Deliver* and *Dead Poet's Society* leads to written responses and oral presentations. Students keep journals to record instances of biased or controversial media treatment of education-related events.

**The Artist as Citizen in Contemporary American Society**  
*Sections: 28, 37*

**Theme Focus:** Exploration of the essential relationship between art and every other sphere of human inquiry. Focus on the influence of art on culture and society and the power of art to transform its audience.

**Sample Assignments:** Experiential learning includes excursions to regional art galleries and museums. Critical evaluations (oral and written) of various artistic works. Discussion and debates on issues such as censorship, art as propaganda, and government sponsorship of the arts.

**Be All You Can Be: Personal Development**  
*Section: 1*

**Theme Focus:** Development of the student’s abilities to the highest potential in academic, personal, physical, and spiritual areas. Topics include self-awareness, communications skills including nonverbal communication, and career satisfaction.

**Sample Assignments:** Exercises in personal goal setting and assessment of strengths and weaknesses. Short papers include responses to cultural programs including art and music. Role playing and impromptu speaking activities.
**Biological Technology and the Social Context**  
*Section: 7*

**Theme Focus:** Investigation of practical and ethical dilemmas arising from improvements in biological and biomedical technology. Topics include cultural, legal, and social implications of issues involving bioengineering and organ transplantation.

**Sample Assignments:** Short, research-based papers on selected bio-technology topics. Class discussion and analysis of arguments offered in support of controversial decisions such as physician assisted suicide and genetic engineering.

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**Business Works**  
*Sections: 6, 12*

**Theme Focus:** Exploration of different economic systems, organizational structures and functions, and analysis of domestic and global business issues. Topics include diversity of people in the workplace, their relationships, motivation, legal and ethical behaviors, and decision-making.

**Sample Assignments:** Case study examinations of business phenomena will employ a behavioral systems approach using McGregor’s theory of X and Y, Maslow’s hierarchy, and Schultz’s theory of interpersonal orientation. Brief oral and written reports on assigned topics.

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**Civility in the United States**  
*Section: 75*

**Theme Focus:** Exploration of the presence and relevance of civility in contemporary American culture and subcultures. Topics include the merits of good manners, the effect of incivility on society, changing cultural and communication styles, and other countries’ views of the behaviors of Americans.

**Sample Assignments:** Discussion and informal writing on instances of disrespectful and rude behaviors encountered in daily life. Analysis of causes and consequences of these behaviors. Research project on customs and manners in a foreign country, and that country’s view of Americans as a civil or ill-mannered people.

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**Creating Historical Drama**  
*Sections: 11, 35*

**Theme Focus:** Investigation of cultural and regional history through research-based writing of historical dramatic works. Emphasis on using interviews, artifacts, and documents as basis for composing dramatic representations of persons, places and events in regional history.

**Sample Assignments:** After conducting library and web-based research, as well as examining artifacts and documents and interviewing participants or descendants of participants in a selected historic event, students will write original scripts for short plays portraying the events and characters, also exploring issues such as staging, casting, and performance of historical dramas.
**Culture and Narrative**

**Theme Focus:** Experiential exploration of how oral and written language is influenced by the cultures from which it emerges. Examination of the differences between oral and literate structures of thought and between narrative styles used by diverse cultural groups.

**Sample Assignments:** Beginning with an interview of an acquaintance or family member, students collect, analyze, and perform oral narratives representing specific cultural groups. Written projects include the revision of a folktale or fairy tale from a popular culture perspective, as well as an academic paper on a topic involving cultural elements of communication.

**Disability: The Individual & Society**

**Theme Focus:** Examination of the historical and contemporary views of various cultures toward persons with disabilities with particular emphasis on American society and how these attitudes influence interpersonal relationships, the economy, healthcare, education and public policy.

**Sample Assignments:** A short written and oral presentation on the personal, economic, educational and public policy impart of a particular disability category. A small group project on the perspectives of persons with a specific disability and how they cope with healthcare, personal, educational and vocational challenges. Group discussion regarding public policy issues associated with disability in the US and abroad.

**Dreams & the Mythic Imagination**

**Theme Focus:** Exploration of the phenomenon of dreams from various historical, cultural, and psychological perspectives. Emphasis on cultural elements, significance of dreams, and archetypal dream images.

**Sample Assignments:** Small group discussion and analysis of dream images in preparation for writing short papers. Research projects on significance of dreams in various cultural traditions. Study of archetypal dream patterns and themes.

**Educating the Worker for the Global Marketplace**

**Theme Focus:** Preparation for involvement in tomorrow’s economy, based on self-analysis, assessment of labor market, and global awareness. Emphasis on issues of social, economic, and political diversity and opportunity. Includes experimental learning.

**Sample Assignments:** Research-based written report on social and economic opportunities in a culture unlike your own. Preparation of a personal career plan, and participation in service learning activities.
Exploring International and American Cultures

Theme Focus: Investigating, exploring, and understanding peoples representing various cultures within the United States and in other countries. Topics include social customs, religion, education, politics, literature, and art.

Sample assignments: Experiential learning projects include exploration of home cultures of international students, community service projects involving hospice or day care centers, and campus cultural events. Investigation of similarities in seemingly diverse cultures, and examination of personal beliefs concerning diversity.
Gender and Race in Fiction and Film  
Section: 26

Theme Focus: Exploration of the way modern film-makers and fiction authors present race and gender-related characters, conflicts, and issues. Emphasis on the ways literature and film can help to shape people’s identities and relationships with one another in a multicultural, pluralistic, free society.

Sample Assignments: After studying and discussing a film such as Thelma and Louise or American History X, students will write an argumentative paper on some issue of gender or racial issue in the film. Students may write a paper about the author’s treatment of an issue such as social tolerance of racial prejudice or gender and sexuality discrimination in a selected short story from the anthology textbook.

Gender Roles and Relationships  
Section: 23

Theme Focus: Exploration of the basis, characteristics, and consequences of traditional and contemporary gender roles, as well as relationships between men and women. Topics include economic and political gender equity, sexual harassment, partner relationships, and gender stereotypes.

Sample Assignments: Investigation (short papers and oral reports) of the influences of parenting, television and toys on the formation of your own developing identity as being male or female. Research project on gender roles and gender equity in various cultures.

Global Environmental Change  
Sections: 55, 56

Theme Focus: Investigation of the impact of environmental changes on historic and modern societies. Topics include cultural, legal, economic, and political implications of environmental changes both natural and man-made.

Sample Assignments: Research and evaluations by small groups of case studies of societies both past and present impacted by environmental change. Assignments will focus on developing critical thinking, research skills, and strong presentation skills.

Global Issues: The Cultural Environment  
Sections: 5, 14, 33

Theme Focus: Exploration of issues of cultural diversity between Americans and peoples of one or more other countries. Consideration of various social, cultural, economic, and political viewpoints increases our awareness of the international nature of global events.

Sample Assignments: Research using International web sources provides the basis for a written report on a current event-taking place in a foreign country. Experiential learning includes interviews with international students and faculty as well as attendance at cultural events such as lectures, films, and concerts featuring international themes.
**Health Issues for the New Millennium**

**Section:** 43

**Theme Focus:** Exploration of health related issues that directly impact college-aged health care consumers. Topics include ethical issues of childbearing, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, cost and availability of health care, and substance abuse.

**Sample Assignments:** Case studies and role-playing exercise will invite students to think critically about controversial health issues such as the distribution of organs for transplants. Students will write short “reaction papers” based on assigned readings and deliver small group oral presentations on selected research topics.

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**The Holocaust**

**Section:** 20

**Theme Focus:** Critical study of the interaction of politics, society, and culture through the lens of specific periods in modern European history. Topics include the Great War (1914-1918), European Dictatorships (1917-1945), and the Holocaust.

**Sample Assignments:** Written and oral presentations on such issues as the impact of modern warfare technology and the emergence of totalitarian regimes. Analysis and discussion of historical documents and interpretation of historical events. Short “reaction papers” invite students to respond to ideas and arguments presented in selected readings.

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**How Things Grow**

**Section:** 30

**Theme Focus:** Analysis of growth trends in areas such as population, disease growth, economic development, inflation, and consumption of physical resources. Students will find data, graph and analyze it, and assess critically the conclusions reached by various individuals and groups who use the data.

**Sample Assignments:** Students will conduct a case study of worldwide population growth and its consequences. Students will write short papers, including technical reports, and make oral Power Point presentations on selected topics.

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**Law, Society, and Decision-Making**

**Section:** 22

**Theme Focus:** Investigation of the ways in which laws, court systems, and legal decisions shape individual and societal behavior. Emphasis on how historical, social, and political factors influence laws, the courts, and specific controversial legal decisions.

**Sample Assignments:** In small group presentation, students analyze the causes and effects of U.S. Supreme Court decisions on various landmark cases. Experiential learning activities allow students to examine first-hand the functioning of governmental bodies and courts. Examination of cultural values and critical thinking evidenced in editorials.
**Issues in Global Nutrition**  
*Section: 41*

**Theme Focus:** Examination of the role of food in the development of ethnic, religious, and regional identity. Issues of inequities of food availability and the impact on the environment will be emphasized. Additional topics include cultural food preferences, the role of food in medicine, and the debate for biotechnology.

**Sample assignments:** Design and presentation of a debate regarding biotechnology – its role in the prevention of disease and the potential impact on the environment; development of vegetarian menu planning with preparation of food products for taste-testing; participation and design of world hunger awareness activities for the campus during World Hunger Week in October.

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**Life Choices & Consequences**  
*Section: 57*

**Theme Focus:** An examination of the critical thinking, values, and consequences that add to or diminish the quality of life. This section will study the causes and effects of choices made every day by individuals, choices that have impact on family, relationships, health, religion, and career.

**Sample Assignments:** Students will participate in values clarification activities, develop their own life choices contracts, and analyze life choices from personal, political, historical, and social perspectives.

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**Looking Closer: Exploring Interconnections**  
*Sections: 47, 50*

**Theme Focus:** From the images of lives of ordinary and extraordinary people to complex aspects of contemporary American culture, from photographs to films to comics to cultural artifacts, from CD and album covers to student portfolios, students will examine their own identities and their cultural and physical surroundings.

**Sample Assignments:** After examining Nick Ut's photograph of children fleeing a napalm strike during the Viet Nam war, students will conduct web-based research on subsequent events in the life of the girl in the photo. Beginning with a mural painting in Rhodes Hall, students will investigate Stephen Hawking’s contribution to science, and then explore various cultural, religious, and scientific accounts of the origin of life.

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**Making Sense of the World**  
*Section: 70*

**Theme Focus:** Examination of issues currently in the news with emphasis on developing critical thinking, reading, and listening skills. Exploration of controversial events and conflicts, with attention to effective reasoning and oral and written communication abilities.

**Sample Assignments:** Analysis of selected newspaper and magazine articles on current events. Written and oral presentation of decisions arrived at in group evaluation of controversial topics such as urban sprawl, threats to the environment, or terrorism.
The Manhattan Project: A History of the Atomic Bomb  Section: 2

Theme Focus: Events leading up to the discovery of atomic fission, reasons for formation of Manhattan Project, solutions to problems leading to construction and use of atomic weapons. Emphasis on social, moral, and political dilemmas, some of which continue to this day.

Sample Assignments: Written biography reports on key participants such as Enrico Fermi and Robert Oppenheimer. Investigation and analysis of conflicts among scientific, military, and political factions involved in the atom bomb project. Exercises in evaluation and interpretation of scientific and technical data, ethical decision-making.

Mass Media & the Movies  Sections: 9, 40, 71

Theme Focus: Examination of media portrayal in the movies, with emphasis on the day-to-day work responsibilities and ethical demands faced by newspaper and television journalists.

Sample Assignments: Written reviews and class discussion of media-themed movies viewed in class. Short research paper on an aspect of media portrayal in films. Class production of a film based on media theme.

The Mathematics of Art  Section: 54

Theme Focus: Identifying and understanding the influence of mathematics in the history of art. Topics include artistic perspective, symmetry, and proportion, as well as consideration of mathematically generated computer graphics as art.

Sample Assignments: Investigation of mathematical models which influence art forms in various cultures. Short papers and oral reports on topics such as “What is art?” and whether a particular computer graphic image can be classified as a work of art.

Moral Choices  Section: 44

Theme Focus: An investigation of the connection between our private ethical beliefs and our actions as members of society. How and why will you, as a person of intelligence and moral character, sometimes make values-based choices which other people consider to be wrong or unpopular?

Sample Assignments: After preliminary reading of short articles on topics such as breaking the law as an act of conscience, the ethics of corporate profit-taking during a recession, legal and moral issues surrounding cloning, the censoring of cyberporn, or job discrimination based on race, gender, or disability, class members will participate in informal debates and write personal “position papers” on controversial propositions.
**Music Makers**

*Theme Focus:* For students majoring in Music. Study of the cultural, historical, and social contexts of significant composers and schools of music from the Middle Ages to the present. Exploration of the canon of western art music with focus on selected “set works” studied from a cultural, not strictly musical, perspective.

*Sample Assignments:* Students will conduct web-based and library research on selected musical and cultural figures and movements. Brief “response papers” allow students to express critical reactions to musical and cultural artifacts, examining the reasons for their aesthetic judgments.

**Perspectives on the American Dream**

*Theme Focus:* Exploration of the American ideal of success through hard work and how and why this ideal has changed through various generations and in various cultural and social groups. Topics include the representation of the American Dream in literature, music, art, and film.

*Sample Assignments:* Students will read selections of literary works and political documents by authors such as Benjamin Franklin, M. L. King, Frank McCourt, and J. F. Kennedy, writing response papers about their personal assumptions about work, success, and the pursuit of happiness.

**The Plow and the Pony: The Western Relationship**

*Theme Focus:* This course explores the West through engaging in its myths, its romance and its realities while offering a glance at the way the American West has formed both ideas of individualism and gender roles in ways that deeply affect our perspective today. This course celebrates and explores the unsung heroes of rural America and offers insight into the romance and strength of both genders in the struggle to overcome nature.

*Sample Assignments:* Students will explore writings and gain familiarity with western themes through such writers as Willa Cather, Frank Norris, John Steinbeck, Mark Twain, William Kittredge and Anne Proulx as well as interpret stereotypes and culture through film and discussion and gain a further understanding of the western heritage through open and meaningful research, writing, dialogue, analysis and self-introspection.

**Rock and Roll and Revolution**

*Theme Focus:* Investigation of the claim that, when rock and roll first appeared, it represented not just a musical style but a new subculture which threatened the social and political status quo. Topics include classic rock and roll and contemporary popular music.

*Sample Assignments:* Research, discussion, and short papers on topics such as the links between rock and roll and social deviancy, rock music performers as political figures, innovations or movements (such as the “British Invasion”) which changed rock music.
**Sanity Over the Ages**  
**Sections:** 3, 32

**Theme Focus:** Investigation of questions of sanity and insanity from psychological, legal, and social perspectives in various cultures and historic periods. Topics include definitions of insanity, causes, effects, and behaviors associated with insanity, biomedical ethics issues, and the treatment of those judged to be insane in various times and places.

**Sample Assignments:** Case studies and psychological profiles of famous individuals who may or may not have been sane. Research projects leading to oral and written reports on issues such as the legal rights of the "insane" and experimental procedures used in treatment.

**The Space Race**  
**Section:** 42

Theme Focus: Investigation of the superpower competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the exploration of space. This seminar will explore the history, politics, and technology of the Space Race, tracing its connections to technological and scientific developments which have benefited society.

Sample Assignments: Students will pursue answers to a variety of research questions, writing papers and making oral reports on topics such as “How did Sputnik influence America’s science education efforts?” “How did NASA win Congressional funding?” or “How did espionage help or hurt the Soviet space program?”

**Thinking Critically: UFO’s, ESP & Bigfoot**  
**Sections:** 15, 34

**Theme Focus:** Critical analysis of paranormal activity provides a means of developing students’ critical thinking skills. Investigation of paranormal phenomena such as UFO’s and psycho kinesis allow students to employ rational thought processes which can be used to evaluate not just outlandish claims, but ordinary claims as well.

**Sample Assignments:** Various exercises will allow students to acquire knowledge of alternative scientific explanations of phenomena. Students will investigate the Flat Earth Society and write a critical analysis of its argument supporting the theory that the earth is flat. Classroom debates will address topics such as astrology, ghosts, and psychic healing.

**Travelers in Time**  
**Section:** 10

**Theme Focus:** A fast-paced survey of some of the highlights (and lowlights) in the development of Western Civilization. Students will experience what life was like at crucial points in history using a variety of disciplines including art, literature, music and philosophy, and relate these experiences to our own contemporary world.

**Sample Assignments:** Research-based oral presentations on significant cultural figures from classical, medieval, and modern periods. Readings of poetry from various periods and brief written responses. Study of cultural and ethical issues in the film *A Man For All Seasons.*
**University Survival 101**  
**Section: 21**

**Theme Focus:** Investigate the skills required to succeed in academic, business, and industrial environments of the 21st Century. Topics include time management, critical thinking, choice of career and major, globalization, communication skills, diversity, and impact of culture on the new world order.

**Sample Assignments:** Students will analyze the technical and non-technical or soft skills needed for success in contemporary business and industrial settings. Power Point presentation skills will be developed as students present group projects on potential cultural conflicts, problems, and issues that might be encountered in their careers.

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**Utopias & Dystopias**  
**Section: 13**

**Theme focus:** Examine books and films from various time periods that depict imaginary societies, some ideal, some full of horror. Students will consider whether the respective depictions are overly optimistic or pessimistic, possible or impossible; and, as a culminating exercise, they will construct their own vision of a future society.

**Sample Assignments:** Student panels will be used to introduce each book and film to the class. Students will be asked to write one-page response papers for each work studied. The culminating exercise of constructing one’s own vision of a future world will be presented in both written and oral form.