Faculty is required to have the outline submitted to the Academic Affairs Office. The course outline is the form used for approval of new courses by the Academic Affairs and Standards Council.

DEPT. History COURSE NUMBER: 2202

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

COURSE TITLE: Modern American Wars

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Begins with an examination of the Spanish American War, when the United States turned away from isolationism and toward global interaction. The course then examines World Wars One and Two, the causes and peace settlements of each, and the significance of each conflict. The course moves on to the Cold War era and its associated conflicts, and concludes with an analysis of the Middle East and the War on Terror. Additionally, the course addresses certain social, political, economic, and intellectual questions from an ethical perspective, including genocide and disease. Emphasis is placed on the viewpoints of each nation involved in conflict and why it chose war instead of peace.

AUDIENCE: This course is designed for students of all ages interested in exploring the cause and effect of war, and exploring alternatives to conflict.

FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) (Leave blank if not applicable)

Area: 8 – Global Perspectives - by meeting the following competencies: Students will describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions; demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences; analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution; and understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

Area: 9 – Ethical and Civic Responsibility - by meeting the following competencies: Students will examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views; understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues; analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues; recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others; identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

PREREQUISITES OR NECESSARY ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE: STSK 0095 or evidence of college level reading ability through assessment test or prior college coursework.

LENGTH OF COURSE: 1 Semester

 THIS COURSE IS USUALLY OFFERED:
Every other year ☐ fall ☑ spring ☐ summer ☐ undetermined ☐
Four goals are emphasized in course at Minnesota West Community & Technical College:

1) ACADEMIC CONTENT: The academic objectives of this course are:
   a. Develop an understanding of how nations deal with one another, and resort to war
   b. Develop a knowledge of specific personalities, places, and events in modern conflicts
   c. Recognize the ethical dilemmas in war, such as atrocities and genocide
   d. Understand cultural influences and prejudices in national relations
   e. Develop an understanding of basic International Relations Theory
   f. Understand different political ideologies and their effect on cultures when taken to extremes

2) THINKING SKILLS: This course will help students improve the effectiveness of their thinking skills:
   a. To develop a critical attitude toward interpretations of history and warfare, and who might use those interpretations for their own benefit
   b. To understand the causes and outcomes of American conflicts
   c. To think through the causes and settlements of conflict and determine if war was necessary and whether alternatives existed
   d. To relate the impact of earlier decisions with the consequences of the present

3) COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS: This course will help students improve their oral and written communication skills:
   a. To discuss both orally and in writing the interpretations, relationships, and concepts from class
   b. To identify key terms and phrases
   c. To identify cities and nations on a map
   d. To develop and hone research skills

4) HUMAN DIVERSITY: This course will help students recognize, understand, and appreciate human diversity:
   a. To provide an understanding of different cultures and prejudices toward them
   b. To incorporate issues of race, class, and gender in the study of modern conflict
   c. Understanding different political, economic, and social issues that affect nations and regions

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

1) America turns to global intervention (late 1800s) – 1 week
2) World War I – 3 weeks
3) Interwar years, rise of Germany and Japan – 1 week
4) World War II – 4 weeks
5) Korea – 1 week
6) Cold War – 1 week
7) Vietnam – 2 weeks
8) Desert Shield/Storm – 1 week
9) Terrorism/War on Terror – 2 weeks
LIST OF EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES:

1) Understanding of international relations theory
2) Understanding of ethical decision making in warfare
3) Understanding of the causes and settlements of war
4) Understanding prejudices and their impact
5) Understanding political ideologies and their impact on war
6) Understanding personalities and their impact on society
7) Understanding cultural influences on the decision to make war

LEARNING/TEACHING TECHNIQUES used in the course are:

- Collaborative Learning
- Problem Solving
- Student Presentations
- Interactive Lectures
- Creative Projects
- Individual Coaching
- Lecture
- Films/Videos/Slides
- Demonstrations
- Other (describe below)
- Lab

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR THIS CLASS INCLUDE:

- Reading
- Tests
- Individual Projects
- Oral Presentations
- Worksheets
- Collaborative Projec
- Textbook Problems
- Papers
- Portfolio
- Group Problems
- Term Paper
- Other (describe below)

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1) Students will gain an understanding of why the United States turned from its isolationist stance to an agenda of global intervention
2) Students will gain an understanding of basic International Relations Theory – Liberalism (Idealism) vs. Realism, constructivism, and functionalism.
3) Students will understand why nations have gone to war, and that there are often alternatives to war
4) Students will gain an understanding of cultural, political, economic, and social issues that have led nations to engage in war
5) Students will gain an understanding of global issues and national cultures
6) Students will gain an understanding of political ideologies in their extremes (Communism and Fascism) versus a democratic form of government

Veteran Services: Minnesota West is dedicated to assisting veterans and eligible family members in achieving their educational goals efficiently. Active duty and reserve/guard military members should advise their instructor of all regularly scheduled military appointments and duties that conflict with scheduled course requirements. Instructors will make every effort to work with the student to identify adjusted timelines. If you are a veteran, please contact the Minnesota West Veterans Service Office.

To receive reasonable accommodations for a documented disability, please contact the campus Student Services Advisor or campus Disability Coordinator as arrangements must be made in advance. In addition, students are encouraged to notify their instructor.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Student Services Advisor or by calling 800-658-2330 or Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 or by using your preferred relay service.