Course Syllabus
NCAD140-72111, Fall 2021
Tuesdays, 2:30-3:45 PM, August 31-Dec 14, 2021
Student/Office Hours 3:45-4:15 PM Tuesdays

Welcome
NCAD140 Forum on Local and Global Topics is a free, non-credit class from the Continuing Education Older Adults Program. This course has many sections covering diverse topics. You may enroll in multiple sections each semester and for as many semesters as you like.

NCAD140: Section 72111: Wonders of the World online via Tuesday Zoom link. There is no passcode. This course will stimulate your curiosity and imagination as it expands your appreciation for our planet and our ingenuity. Class time involves watching and discussing documentaries. It’s a great way to share insights and questions about art. We focus on enrichment and making connections among classmates. We come from many backgrounds, with a wide variety of life experiences. Your opinions are valuable and will be considered respectfully with regard for equity and inclusion.

Land acknowledgement
Although we meet online, it is important to acknowledge that West Valley College sits on the land of the Ohlone and the Muwekma people. For thousands of years, these indigenous peoples occupied this land and used this beautiful location as their home. By offering this Land Acknowledgment, we remember that the Ohlone and Muwekma people are still connected to this region.

How will we keep in touch?
- Janet (Jan) Masters
- My faculty page: Janet Masters Faculty link
- Cell phone: (650) 861-1769
- Email: Janet.masters@wvm.edu or jemasters@earthlink.net
- Office/Student Hours: Tuesdays 3:45-4:15 PM via ZOOM, open to currently registered students.
- Class, via Zoom, Tuesdays, August 31-Dec 14, 2021, 2:30-3:45 PM. Tuesday Zoom link.

My student/office hours are one half-hour before my classes, except Tuesday when student hours are after class 3:45-4:15 PM. If not convenient, we can zoom, email, or talk on the phone at other times to accommodate your schedule. I reply to emails within (48) hours.

Preferred name and pronoun
If you’d like to be called by a name different from the class roster, or have a preferred pronoun, please let me know so we can address you as you prefer.
Our community goals

What you can expect from me

- I will treat you with dignity and respect and be flexible to support your individual needs.
- I will provide you with a clear, organized course that is designed to ensure you meet our course outcomes in a meaningful manner.
- I will be actively present in your learning.
- I will provide a supportive and safe environment in which to share and discuss ideas.
- I will reach out to you when I sense that you need support.

What I will expect from you

- Treat me and your peers with dignity and respect.
- Strive to be an active participant in this course.
- Maintain an open line of communication with me so I understand how to support you.
- Do your best to be patient with technology. There will be hiccups; expect them. We’ve got this!

What we can expect from each other

- We won’t be perfect. We will view mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.
- We will all strive to contribute regularly to ensure all members of our class have ample opportunity to see/listen, reflect, and respond to all ideas.
- Disagreements are natural; but we will treat one another with dignity and respect. If you sense a negative emotion surfacing within yourself, step away for a while; reflect on what is happening; then return and respond by focusing on the issue, not the person.

What will you need for this class?

- Access to a stable Internet connection (preferably a “wired” connection with an Ethernet cable.)
- Willingness to mute and unmute your audio and start and stop your outgoing video to improve your Zoom experience.

What will you do in this class?

- You will spend part of each class meeting watching and listening to online documentaries
- You will be asked to share your reactions to the documentaries
- You will be expected to share your life experiences and knowledge as they relate to the topics.

What about grades?

There aren’t any! Also—no homework, no pop quizzes, no tests, and no essays to write.

Attendance

True, there are no fees and no grades. but your fellow students and I are counting on you to attend as many sessions as possible. Having a regular daily routine is important for a healthy life—more so in these pandemic times. Please strive to make our time together part of your regular routine.
Course information

Catalog Description: This non-credit course expands the students’ knowledge of economic, social, governmental, historic, geographic, and cultural issues. Students also expand communication skills as they expand knowledge of world, national and local issues and become better informed community members.

Objectives:

1. Identify and discuss topics in worldwide events, government, economics, culture, geography, and history.
2. Express informed viewpoints on class topics.
3. Identify facts or events of current events, government, economics, culture, geography, and history.
4. Demonstrate attentive and respectful listening.
5. Demonstrate ability to express complex ideas on global topics in a collegial environment.

Student Learning Outcome: Identify and discuss topics in worldwide current events, government, economics, culture, geography, and history.

Important dates

- First day of class: August 31, 2021
- Non-Teaching Days: None
- Last day of class: December 14, 2021
- Last day to ADD this class: December 1, 2021
- Last day to DROP: December 1, 2021
- Enroll, add, or drop: Registration Webpage

Religious holidays

If there are religious celebrations that you observe that will impact your attendance, please let me know. Our program does not offer “make up sessions” but I can let you know how to access the online documentaries you may miss.

Student help and support

West Valley College has many Student Services that are here to support your success and help you achieve your goals.

Academic counseling

West Valley College wants you to succeed! If you have not made an educational plan with a counselor or if you have other questions about your academic pathway, make an appointment with a counselor right away to explore your academic future. Find more information about the counseling services available, including online appointment booking by going to Counseling Services. You can also see an embedded counselor, special program counselor, or a learning community counselor.
Accommodations for a disability
West Valley College is here to support you, and we want to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you think you may run into academic barriers because of your disability, such as a learning disability, ADHD, mental health, or chronic or temporary medical condition, please let me know so we can privately discuss your options. Registration with the Disability and Educational Support Program (DESP) is also highly recommended. West Valley College’s DESP program is known for going the extra mile to support students, and they will work with you to establish reasonable accommodations to further your success. Find out more about their services by going to Disability and Educational Support Program (DESP).

Health services
West Valley College Health Services is here to help you with a range of services and resources. In addition to clinical assessment and intervention, other services available include mental health support, personal counseling, and specialty support for issues like alcohol and substance use disorder and sexual assault. Many services are covered by enrollment fees and are free of charge to students. For a comprehensive list, go to Health Services.

Learning support
Are you having difficulty with your classes? Do you feel shy or uneasy about asking questions in class or even when attending student hours for extra help? Or has life just gotten in the way, due to trouble managing home duties with school responsibilities? We are here to help! West Valley College’s Success Center offers FREE tutoring, no matter what your challenges are! Visit the Success Center website for more information about tutoring support available to you both in-person and online.

Student needs
- Food: If you need help affording food while attending West Valley College, you are not alone, and West Valley College can help. A mobile food pantry provides free food on campus weekly.
- Housing: West Valley has resources to help you deal with housing instability or homelessness. West Valley also has on-campus showers Monday -Thursday.
- Finances: If you are having difficulty paying for your classes, there is help.

See Student Needs for information about the services listed above and more.

Honesty is the foundation of academic work
What to do
- Trust the value of your own intellect.
- Demonstrate your own achievement and abilities.
- Ask for help from me, or your fellow students!

West Valley College nondiscrimination statement
The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, sex or gender, race, color, medical condition, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, or because he/she is
perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Emergency information
Be prepared! Please review the college’s Emergency Preparedness information. We recommend:

- Downloading the WVC Go App
- Putting WVC emergency numbers into your phone (also available at the above website)
- Registering for WVM Alert
- In an emergency, we evacuate to the nearest safe place for your location.