Unit 14 Glossary (Modern Era 2000-Present)

**Biotechnology**- The use of living organisms or other biological systems in the manufacture of drugs or other products or for environmental management, as in waste recycling. This includes the use of bioreactors in manufacturing, microorganisms to degrade oil slicks or organic waste, genetically engineered bacteria to produce human hormones, and monoclonal antibodies to identify antigens.

**Cellular Phones**- The first hand-held mobile phone was demonstrated by Motorola in 1973, using a handset weighing around 2.2 pounds. In 1983, the DynaTAC 8000x was the first to be commercially available. Cell phones became the status symbol of the 1980’s. Today, it is an important mode of communication.

**Compact Disc (CD)**- The compact disc (CD), is an optical disc used to store digital data. The format was originally developed to store and play back sound recordings only, but was later adapted for storage of data (CD-ROM). Several other formats were further derived from these, including write-once audio and data storage, rewritable media, Video Compact Disc, Super Video Compact Disc, Photo CD, Picture CD, and Enhanced Music CD. Audio CDs and audio CD players have been commercially available since October 1982. At the time of the technology's introduction it had more capacity than computer hard drives common at the time. The reverse is now true, with hard drives far exceeding the capacity of CDs. In 2004, worldwide sales of CD audio, CD-ROM, and CD-R reached about 30 billion discs. By 2007, 200 billion CDs had been sold worldwide. Compact discs are increasingly being replaced or supplemented by other forms of digital distribution and storage, such as downloading and flash drives, with audio CD sales dropping nearly 50% from their peak in 2000.

**Conservation of Natural Resources**- The term *conservation* came into use in the late 19th century and referred to the management, mainly for economic reasons, of such valuable natural resources as timber, fish, game, topsoil, pastureland, and minerals, and also to the preservation of forests, wildlife parkland, wilderness, and watershed areas. Conservation of natural resources is now usually embraced in the broader conception of conserving the earth itself by protecting its capacity for self-renewal. Particularly complex are the problems of nonrenewable resources such as oil and coal and other minerals in great demand. Current thinking also favors the protection of entire ecological regions by the creation of "biosphere reserves."

**Deregulation**- The reduction or elimination of government power in a particular industry usually enacted to create more competition within the industry. Traditional areas that have been deregulated are the telephone and airline industries. In the late 1990’s and early 2000’s the utility industry (power companies) in North America started to deregulate.

**Digital Video Disc (DVD)**- An optical disc storage format, invented and developed by Philips, Sony, Toshiba, and Panasonic in 1995. DVDs offer higher storage capacity than compact discs while having the same dimensions. (See compact disc)

**Dotcoms**- The dotcoms took the world by storm in the late 1990s, rising faster than any industry in recent memory. Despite the fact that most internet companies were losing money at alarming rates, they were given huge valuations on the stock market, but it didn't last for long. The Nasdaq surged to a historical high in March of 2000, and within a few years most of the dotcom sector was wiped out.

**Entitlement Programs**- In the United States, Social Security and Medicare are examples of entitlement programs. Originally the term "entitlement" in the United States was used to identify federal programs and got that name because workers became "entitled" to their benefits by paying into the system, but in recent years the meaning has been used to refer also to benefits, like those of the food stamps program, which people become eligible to receive without paying into a system. Some federal programs are also considered entitlements even though the subscriber's "paying into the system" occurs via a means other than monetary, as in the case of those programs providing for veterans’ benefits, and where the individual becomes eligible via service in the U.S. military.

**Global Warming**- An increase in the earth's atmospheric and oceanic temperatures widely predicted to occur due to an increase in the greenhouse effect resulting especially from pollution. The 1992 Earth Summit and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change attempted to address the issue of global warming, but in both cases the efforts were hindered by conflicting national economic agendas and disputes between developed and developing nations over the cost and consequences of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

**GPS**-Global Positioning System; a space-based satellite navigation system that provides location and time information in all weather conditions, anywhere on or near the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. The system provides critical capabilities to military, civil and commercial users around the world. It is maintained by the United States government and is freely accessible to anyone with a GPS receiver. The GPS project was developed in 1973 to overcome the limitations of previous navigation systems, integrating ideas from several predecessors, including a number of classified engineering design studies from the 1960s. GPS was created and realized by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and was originally run with 24 satellites. It became fully operational in 1994. Advances in technology and new demands on the existing system have now led to efforts to modernize the GPS system and implement the next generation of GPS III satellites and Next Generation Operational Control System (OCX). Announcements from the Vice President and the White House in 1998 initiated these changes. In 2000, U.S. Congress authorized the modernization effort, GPS III.

**Internet**- Originated in the early 1990’s, it is a global computer network linking smaller computer networks worldwide. These computer networks use the TCP/IP network protocols to facilitate data transmission and exchange. The Internet includes commercial, educational, governmental, and other networks, all of which use the same set of communications protocols.

**NAFTA**- A regulation implemented on Jan. 1, 1994, that decreased and eventually eliminated tariffs to encourage economic activity between the United States, Mexico and Canada. NAFTA is credited with making it easier for Americans to purchase Canadian and Mexican goods, increasing workers' wages slightly in all three countries, increasing manufacturing and other jobs for U.S. workers, and dramatically increasing trade between the three nations, from $337 billion in 1993 to $1.182 trillion in 2011.

**Reverse Discrimination**- Discrimination against white persons or males resulting from preferential policies intended to remedy past discrimination against minorities or females.

**Robot Technology**- Design, construction, and use of machines or robots to perform tasks done traditionally by human beings. Robots are widely used in such industries as automobile manufacture to perform simple repetitive tasks and in industries where work must be performed in environments hazardous to humans. Many aspects of robotics involve artificial intelligence; robots may be equipped with the equivalent of human senses such as vision, touch, and the ability to sense temperature. Some are even capable of simple decision making, and current robotics research is geared toward devising robots with a degree of self-sufficiency that will permit mobility and decision-making in an unstructured environment. Today's industrial robots do not resemble human beings; a robot in human form is called an android.

**Lionel Sosa**- (b.1940?) Sosa is an independent marketing consultant, and nationally recognized portrait artist. He is founder of Sosa, Bromley, Aguilar & Associates, now Bromley Communications, the largest Hispanic advertising agency in the U.S. He is an acknowledged expert in Hispanic consumer and voter behavior. Lionel was named “One of 25 most influential Hispanics in America” by Time Magazine in 2005. He was media consultant for President George W. Bush in the 2004 campaign as well as in 2000. He has been Hispanic Media Consultant in six Republican presidential campaigns beginning in 1980 and has been media advisor in over 100 political campaigns. He is the author of The Americano Dream: How Latinos Can Achieve Success in Business and in Life, published in 1998 by Dutton. Currently, Sosa has authored a second book titled, Think and Grow Rich, a Latino Choice for the Napoleon Hill Foundation to be published by Random House in June of 2006.

**Sonia Sotomayor**- (b.1954) Sonia Sotomayor, raised in poverty, was nominated on May 26, 2009, for the United States Supreme Court by President Barack Obama. After contentious confirmation hearings, Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic Justice and third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Telecommuter**- Employment at home while communicating with the workplace by phone or fax or modem.

**Oprah Winfrey**- (b.1954) Through the power of media, Oprah Winfrey has created an unparalleled connection with people around the world. As supervising producer and host of the top-rated, award winning *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, she has entertained, enlightened and uplifted millions of viewers for two decades. Her accomplishments as a global media leader and philanthropist have established her as one of the most respected and admired public figures. She appears on every list of the world’s leading opinon-makers, and has been called “the most powerful woman in the world.”

**World Trade Organization (WTO)**- Established in 1995 as an international organization dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.