Unit 12 Glossary (1980’s-1999)

**AIDS**- The world first became aware of AIDS in the early 1980s. Growing numbers of gay men in New York and California were developing rare types of pneumonia and cancer, and a wasting disease was spreading in Uganda. From the first days of the AIDS epidemic, the history of HIV has been one of stigma and activism as well as science. The earliest people with AIDS and the health officials advising the public didn’t know what the disease was or how it was transmitted. This uncertainty, and the speed with which the disease spread, led to an “epidemic of fear” and to discrimination against those with HIV and against groups perceived, correctly or not, to be more at risk. We now know that HIV existed long before it was identified as the cause of AIDS in 1984. Blood analysis reveals instances of the virus as early as the 1940s. While researchers aren’t sure exactly when and how HIV developed, the most likely theories posit that HIV-1, the most common strain of the virus, was transmitted to humans from chimpanzees sometime in the early to mid 20th century. As researchers continue to develop better treatments and more efficient tests, medical professionals, politicians and activists work towards universal access to the condoms, testing and treatment that save lives. In 2006, the number of AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections fell for the first time since the epidemic began 25 years before. According to the most recent estimates, about 33.3 million people are living with HIV today.

**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.

**Hillary Clinton**- (b.1947) Described as the first major U.S. female political figure since Eleanor Roosevelt, Hillary Rodham Clinton has become a strong force in American politics. As first lady, married to Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States, she became active in domestic policy. Her election as a U.S. senator from New York in 2000 marked the first time that a first lady still in the White House was elected to office. On January 21, 2009, Hillary Rodham Clinton was sworn in as the 67th Secretary of State of the United States. Secretary Clinton joined the State Department after nearly four decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady, and Senator.

**Conservative Coalition**- An unofficial Congressional coalition bringing together the conservative majority of the Republican Party and the conservative, mostly Southern, wing of the Democratic Party. It was dominant in Congress from 1937 to 1963 and remained a political force until the mid-1980s, eventually dying out in the 1990s.

**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.

**Bill Gates**- (b.1955) Gates grew up with the computer industry and maintained a leadership role through widespread use of his own product, Microsoft. Born in Seattle, Washington, Gates attended Harvard University before founding Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Washington, in 1976. He was named C.E.O. of the Year by *Chief Executive* magazine in 1994, and has written two books, *The Future* and *The Road Ahead*. In The Road Ahead he urges readers to take the potential of the information highway seriously. His life reflects the evolution of the computer industry from mainframes to personal computers and the Internet. He believes that the inexpensive connections of computers around the world herald a communications revolution, one of benefit to everyone. He urges governments, private citizens, and manufacturers to cooperate in the process. Education stood to realize the biggest gain and Gates supported the application of innovative technology in the classrooms. He considers Microsoft as a critical player in the revolution and supports its use to a degree that many believe borders on corporate monopoly.

**Genetic Engineering**- The definition of Genetic Engineering is the scientific alteration of the structure of genetic material in a living organism. It involves the production and use of recombinant DNA and has been employed to create bacteria that synthesize insulin and other human proteins. In 1996, Dolly, who was a female domestic sheep, became the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell, using the process of nuclear transfer. She lived until 2003. Genetic Engineering has become a controversial topic as human tissue and organs can be cloned as well.

**Glasnost**- A policy that called for increased openness and transparency in government institutions and activities in the Soviet Union. Introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the second half of the 1980s,Glasnost is often paired with Perestroika (Restructuring), another reform instituted by Gorbachev at the same time. The word was frequently used by Gorbachev to specify the policies he believed might help reduce the corruption at the top of the Communist Party and the Soviet government, and moderate the abuse of administrative power in the Central Committee. (see Perestroika)

**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.

**Billy Graham**- (b.1918) One of the best known Christian evangelists of the 20th century, Billy Graham gained world attention in 1949 with a tent revival in downtown Los Angeles that was scheduled for three weeks and lasted six. In the ensuing decades, “Billy Graham Crusades” consistently drew audiences of thousands to arenas and stadiums throughout the world. He founded an association that continues those and other ministries, including an “Hour of Decision” radio program, televised crusades, a newspaper column, *Decision* magazine and films. Graham consulted and prayed with every U.S. president from Harry Truman to Barack Obama, a fact that solidified his popular status as the nation’s preacher but also opened him to criticism.

**Iran-Contra Affair**- U.S. political scandal. In 1985 Robert McFarlane, head of the National Security Council (NSC), authorized sales of weapons to Iran in an attempt to secure the release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian terrorist groups. The deal contravened stated policy regarding both dealings with terrorists and military aid to Iran. At the instigation of Oliver North, a NSC staff member, and with the approval of John M. Poindexter (Deputy National Security Advisor and National Security Advisor for the Reagan administration) part of the $48 million paid by Iran for the arms was diverted to the Nicaraguan guerillas, the “contras”, in direct violation of a 1984 law banning such assistance. Funding the Contras became a constitutional battle over whether Congress or the president controlled foreign policy, and the Democratic majority in Congress held investigative hearings. A Senate investigation resulted in the conviction of North and Poindexter on charges of obstructing justice and related offenses, though their convictions were later overturned on the ground that testimony given at their trials had been influenced by information they had supplied to Congress under a limited grant of immunity. President Ronald Reagan accepted responsibility for the arms-for-hostages deal but denied any knowledge of the diversion. Multiple Reagan staff convicted for offenses linked to the investigation were pardoned and later served the administration of George W. Bush.

**Iran Hostage Crisis**- This event was the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran by Iranian students on Nov. 4, 1979. The overthrow of Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlevi of Iran by an Islamic revolutionary government earlier in the year had led to a steady deterioration in Iran-U.S. relations. In response to the exiled shah's admission in September of 1979 to the United States for medical treatment, a crowd of about 500 seized the embassy. Of the approximately 90 people inside the embassy, 52 remained in captivity until the end of the crisis. President Jimmy Carter applied economic pressure by halting oil imports from Iran and freezing Iranian assets in the United States. At the same time, he began several diplomatic initiatives to free the hostages, all of which proved fruitless. On Apr. 24, 1980, the United States attempted a rescue mission that failed. After three of eight helicopters were damaged in a sandstorm, the operation was aborted; eight persons were killed during the evacuation. In the United States, failure to resolve the crisis contributed to Ronald Reagan's defeat of Carter in the presidential election. After the election, with the assistance of Algerian intermediaries, successful negotiations began. On Jan. 20, 1981, the day of President Reagan's inauguration, the United States released almost $8 billion in Iranian assets and the hostages were freed after 444 days in Iranian detention; the agreement gave Iran immunity from lawsuits arising from the incident.

**Robert Johnson**- (b.1946) American businessman, founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET, and the first African-American majority owner of a major professional sports team in the United States. BET thrived in the 1990’s, adding more cable channels and expanding its reach through new film and publishing divisions, music channels, and a Web site. After taking BET private again in 1998, Johnson and his partners sold BET Holdings to the giant media group Viacom in 2001 for some $3 billion, though he remained at BET as its chief executive officer until 2005. The sale made him the first African-American billionaire. Johnson then formed the umbrella group RLI Companies, which operated widely in the media, sports, gaming, real estate, and hospitality industries.

**Estee Lauder**- (1908-2004) Lauder is one of the wealthiest self-made women in America. Examine the public and private life of the woman who built her cosmetics empire on the dream of every woman: to feel beautiful.

**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.

**Sandra Day O’Connor**- (b.1930) In 1981 Sandra Day O’Connor became the first woman to serve as a justice in the 191-year history of the United States Supreme Court. A Republican appointed by Ronald Reagan, O’Connor has grit and intelligence that has made her an interesting figure in the nation’s highest court of law.

**Perestroika**- A political movement for reformation within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union during the 1980’s, widely associated with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his Glasnost policy reform. The literal meaning of perestroika is "restructuring", referring to the restructuring of the Soviet political and economic system. (see Glasnost)

**Reaganomics**- The term was used by supporters and detractors of Reagan's policies alike. Reaganomics was partially based on the principles of supply-side economics and the trickle-down theory. These theories hold the view that decreases in taxes, especially for corporations, is the best way to stimulate economic growth: the idea is that if the expenses of corporations are reduced, the savings will "trickle down" to the rest of the economy, spurring growth.

**Ronald Reagan**- (1911-2004) Reagan was the 40th President of the United States, regarded as a key figure in the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Reagan presided over a period of economic growth in the 1980’s, and over the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union. In his final year in office, however, he visited Moscow for a summit meeting with the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. Reagan’s supporters credit Reagan’s anti-Soviet rhetoric and increased defense spending as a key factor in bringing the Cold War to an end, because it forced the USSR to recognize it could not compete with American-led capitalist west.

**Phyllis Schlafly**- (b.1924) American author and political activist, known for her opposition to the women’s liberation movement. In the 1970’s and early 1980’s, Schlafly campaigned against the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The amendment called for men and women to be given equal treatment under the law. Schlafly opposed the ERA because it would require women to serve in combat, and because she believed it would take away legal rights of wives and would negatively influence family life. Schlafly also argued that the amendment would lead to unisex restrooms. She became a leading opponent of the ERA through her lobbying organizations, Stop ERA and Eagle Forum, and by testifying against the ERA before 30 state legislatures. The ERA was defeated in 1982, and Schlafly continued to lead her Eagle Forum organization in campaigns advocating conservative issues.

**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.

**Sam Walton**- (b.1918) Sam Walton was the founder of two American retailers, Wal-Mart and Sam’s club. He was the patriarch of the Walton family, one of the richest families in the world. In 1962 the first of the Wal-Mart stores opened its doors in Rogers, Arkansas to huge success becoming the world’s largest retail store chain. 2004 saw 1.5 million people working for the Wal-Mart Corporation. 1998 saw Sam Walton move into Time Magazine’s top 100 most influential people of the 20th Century, he also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his pioneering efforts in 1992. Forbes also ranked him the richest man in the U.S. from 1985 to 1988. Wal-Mart also operate Sam’s Club Warehouse stores.

**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.