

*Just Exactly.....
What is a Liberal Arts
Education?*

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“Liberal arts”

- ...college or university curriculum aimed at imparting general **knowledge** and developing general **intellectual capacities** *in contrast* to a professional, vocational, or technical curriculum

“Liberal arts”

- ...the study of literature, languages, the fine arts, philosophy, history, social sciences, mathematics, and science
 - Humanities
 - Science and Math
 - Social Sciences

Encyclopedia Britannica, 2008

Liberal arts origins

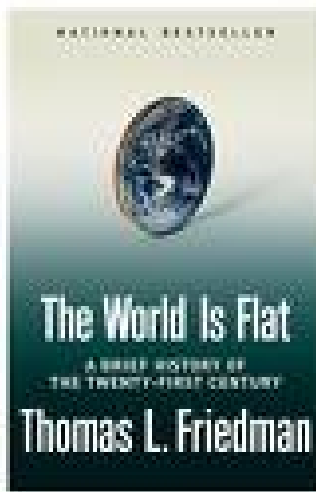
- “That which should be known by a free man...”
 - Rhetoric
 - Public speaking
 - Leadership
- ⇒ Rooted in civic responsibility to be an informed participant in the democratic process

But the world has changed...

....and will continue to change.

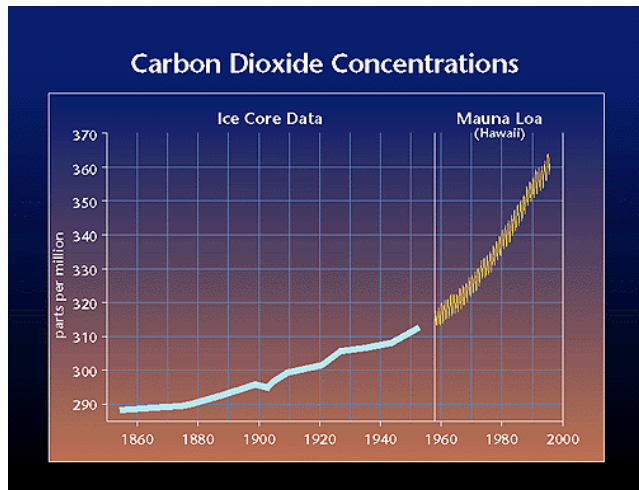
21st Century Trends

- Globalization
 - Commerce and exchange across borders
 - Development of new jobs, yet unimagined



21st Century Trends

- Environmental problems
 - Global
 - Stretching the limits of technology



21st Century Trends

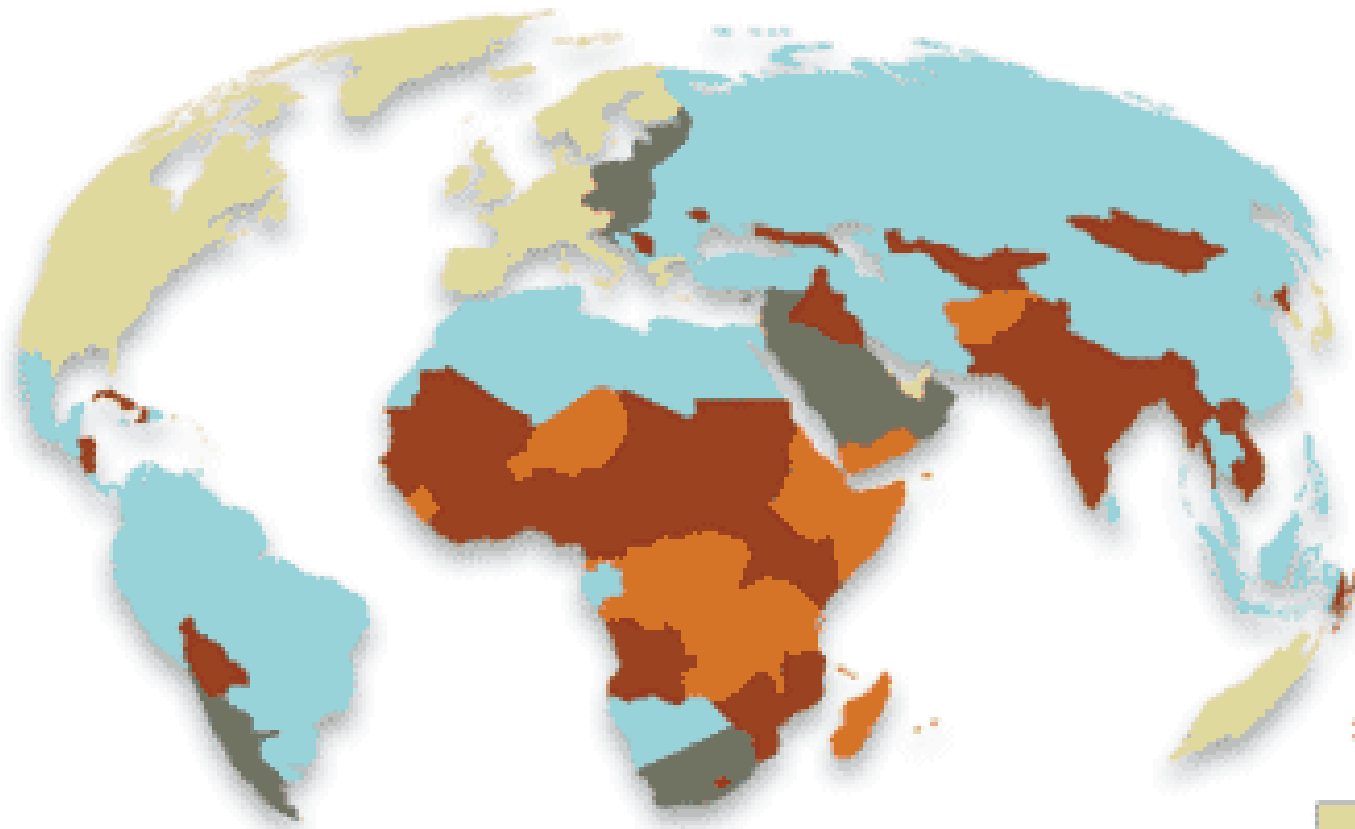
Economic disparities increase

- Wealthy become wealthier
- Poor become poorer and more limited in choices and access






U.S. individual earnings ratios

90th percentile earnings/10th percentile earnings

<u>Year</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
2005	5.88	4.83
2000	5.67	4.67
1995	5.31	4.46
1990	5.04	4.07
1985	4.80	3.74
1980	4.38	3.27



3 BILLION PEOPLE LIVE ON LESS THAN \$2 PER DAY

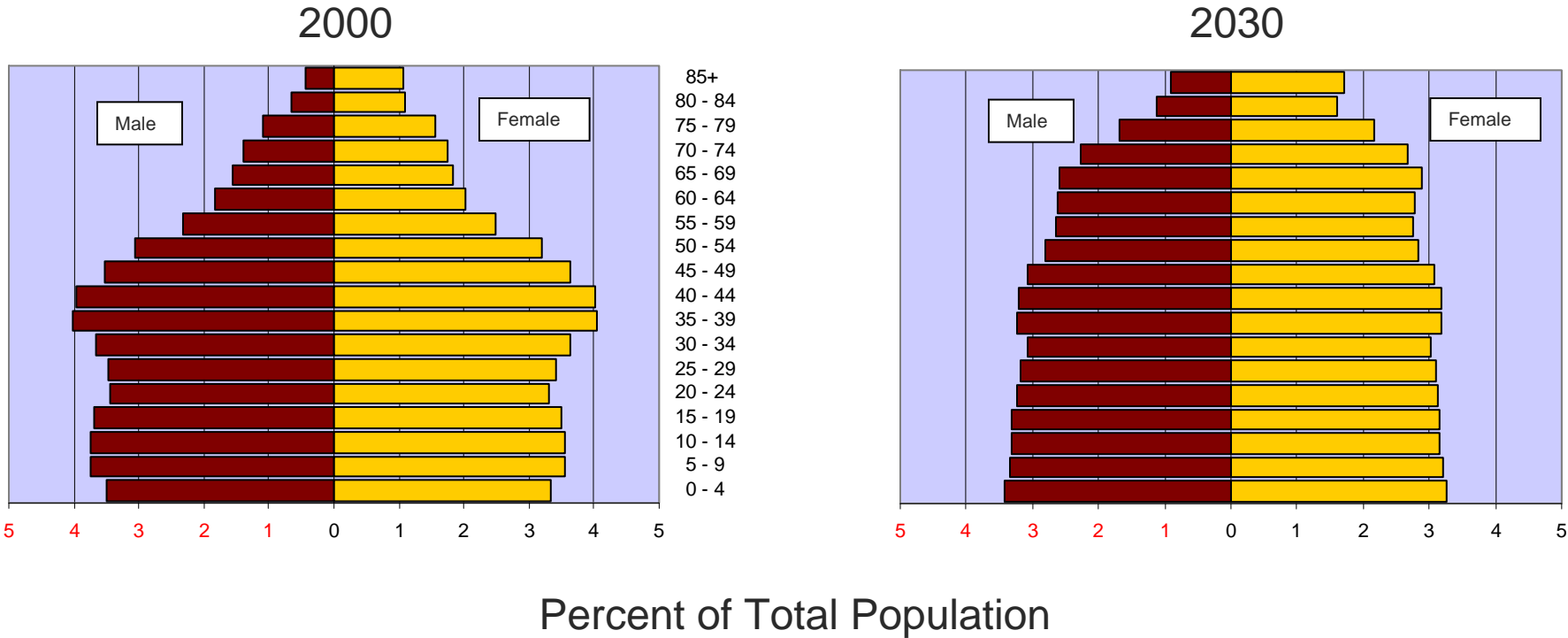
- | | |
|---|---|
|  \$50 + |  \$3 - \$9 |
|  \$30 - \$49 |  \$0 - \$2 |
|  \$10 - \$29 | |

Per capita income (adjusted for purchasing power parity), CIA World Fact Book, 2003-2005.

21st Century Trends

- Demographics
 - Changing age distribution
 - Growing proportion of racial/ethnic “minorities”
 - minorities become majority
 - Urbanization

U.S. Population Pyramids: 2000-2030

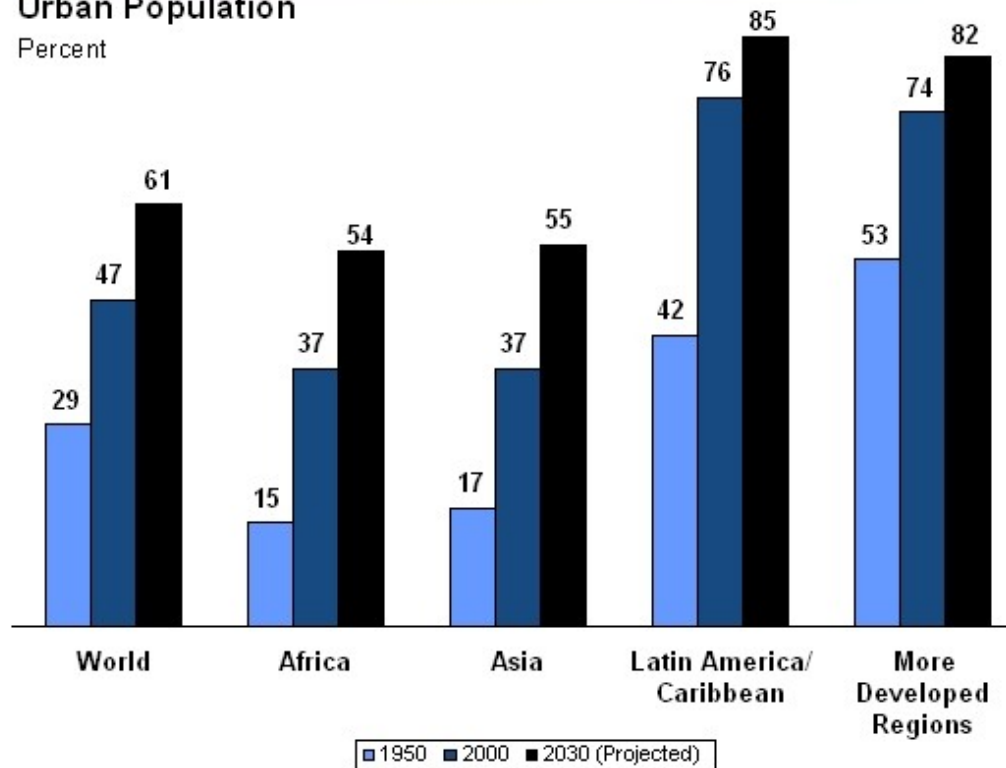


Urbanization

Trends in Urbanization, by Region

Urban Population

Percent



Source: United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision* (medium scenario), 2004.

21st Century Trends

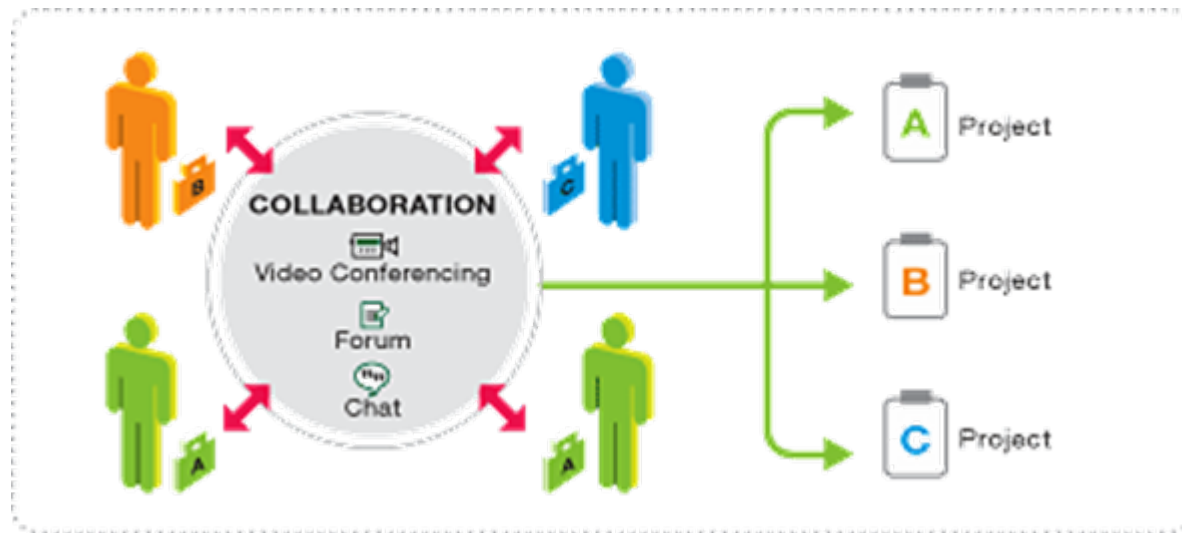
- Communication

- Instantaneous across continents and cultures
- Link together individuals in collaborative settings
- Text, images, sounds, others??



21st Century Trends

- Social interaction
 - Less face-to-face
 - More virtual relationships



21st Century Trends

- Cultural conflicts – historic and new



What do these trends mean for
YOUR education?

- You need to leave here.....

What do these trends mean for YOUR education?

- You need to leave here....
 - More knowledgeable
 - Culture
 - Environment and natural systems
 - Science and technology
 - Communications
 - More curious
 - More analytical, creative, and thoughtful

What do these trends mean for YOUR education?

- You need to leave here....
 - More understanding of difference
 - More respectful
 - More collaborative and cooperative
 - More engaged and involved
 - More able to lead

“Will I have a productive and fulfilling career?”

- YES!!!!
 - (at least based on your education...)
 - Employers demand liberal education outcomes

Survey of employers, 2006

Proportion Of Employers Who Say Colleges And Universities Should Place More Emphasis Than They Do Today On Selected Learning Outcomes

	<u>%</u>
Concepts and new developments in science and technology	82
Teamwork skills and the ability to collaborate with others in diverse group settings	76
The ability to apply knowledge and skills to real-world settings through internships or other hands-on experiences	73
The ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing	73
Critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills	73
Global issues and developments and their implications for the future	72
The ability to locate, organize, and evaluate information from multiple sources	70
The ability to be innovative and think creatively	70

How does a liberal education get you hired and advancing in your career?

- Broad knowledge
- Disciplined and good work habits
- Leadership abilities
- Communication skills
- Predisposition to continue to learn

Respectful, adaptive, resourceful learners

Liberal arts colleges provide...

"an education in which students learn how to learn, an education that emphasizes the forming rather than filling of minds, an education that renders our graduates adaptive to any marketplace, curious about whatever world is around them, and resourceful enough to change with the times."

- Michele Myers, former president of Sarah Lawrence College

What should YOU expect from us?

- Academic rigor
- Develop depth of knowledge
 - Major requirements
 - Student research opportunities
- Intentionality in your curriculum

(Don't just ask what you have to take, but think about why....If you can't answer that, ask someone – advisor, professor, mentor)

What should YOU expect from us?

- Collaborative learning environment
 - Faculty-student interaction
 - Learn-by-doing
 - Learn from the community
- Integrated experience
 - Curricular and co-curricular
 - Student organizations, athletics, performance groups, service learning, study abroad, etc.

What should YOU expect from us?

- Intercultural opportunities
 - Study abroad
 - On-campus programs
 - Challenges to engage with others different than yourself
- A contagious “love of learning”

When you graduate from UMM, you should have greater....

- Knowledge of human cultures and physical and natural world, focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring
 - Science and mathematics
 - Social sciences
 - Humanities, histories, languages, and arts

When you graduate from UMM, you should have greater....

- Intellectual and practical skills, practices extensively, across the curriculum, in progressively more challenging assignments
 - Inquiry and analysis
 - Critical and creative thinking
 - Written and oral communication
 - Quantitative literacy
 - Information literacy
 - Teamwork and problem solving

When you graduate from UMM, you should have greater....

- Personal and social responsibility, anchored in active real world involvement with diverse communities
 - Civic knowledge and engagement – local and global
 - Intercultural knowledge and competence
 - Ethical reasoning and action
 - Foundation and skills for lifelong learning

When you graduate from UMM,
you should have greater....

- Integrative Learning
 - Synthesis across curriculum (general education to major to electives)
 - Advanced accomplishment in new settings and complex problems

UMM Mission Statement

- The University of Minnesota, Morris ... prepares graduates to be global citizens who are interculturally knowledgeable, civically engaged, and effective stewards of their environments.
 - Personalized education
 - High quality, engaged faculty and staff
 - Diverse studentbody
 - Small, living and learning environment
 - Engaged with our place, natural resources, future

So, "Just exactly....

What is a liberal arts education?"

- Breadth and depth of knowledge
- Skill sets that are adaptable to national and global challenges of 21st century
- In great demand by employers
- With an integrative and intentional approach to living and learning across the campus
- Outcomes that you can identify and expect
- The core of UMM and its future

Thank you for your attention

- Stop by for an appointment....
315 Behmler Hall

