

Walden University

Self-Evaluation: Knowledge Area Modules (KAMs)

*Students: Attach this completed form to each KAM prior to forwarding to the Faculty Assessor
(Please use reverse side as necessary)*

Student Name: Steven R. Van Hook **Date:** November 4, 2002

KAM number: 1 **Title:** Cultural Influences in Socioeconomic Development

1. What knowledge/experience did you bring to this KAM? How did you capitalize/expand on this base?

I have spent more than a decade working in Eastern Europe as a journalist and contractor covering and supporting economic development issues in Russia and Ukraine. I was able to incorporate and expand my experience in assessing the drivers and results of social and economic changes, in particular the cultural influences and fallout.

2. Describe the quality of the **Breadth** section in the light of the intellectual and communication skills demonstrated in this KAM.

The Breadth section provides an analysis of several theories of socioeconomic development, with a particular emphasis on cultural influences frequently omitted in the theoretical foundations. I believe the Breadth integration and synthesis of various economic and cultural development theories produces a qualified and valid end product.

3. In the **Depth** section, what key ideas/concepts most engaged your thinking and imagination relative to your area of study?

The Depth section provides numerous examples, case studies, and field reports demonstrating the validity of the observations and conclusions in Breadth, specifically that culture—however overlooked in development theory—indeed provides a profound influence in numerous areas of socioeconomic development.

4. Expound on the most meaningful theoretical construct studied and applied to your professional setting in the **Application** section. What can you do differently/better as a result of this KAM?

Culture plays an intractable role in international social and economic interactions. This KAM helps me to better incorporate cultural issues as integral components within university business courses I teach, including the global economics course developed in the Application section.

5. Briefly describe the most important **Social Issue** covered in this KAM.

For the sake of effective global economic development, better distribution of socioeconomic gains, and world peace in general, cultural influences must be factored in when developing international interrelationship theories and applications.