

# El Camino College Syllabus

## History 140 (Ancient Civilizations)

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**History of United States (Pre History – 1500)**  
**Section 2427 – History 140**  
**Fall Semester, 2018 August 25<sup>th</sup> - December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Schedule: Tuesday Thursday, 11:15 AM - 12:40PM**  
**Location: Social Science Building Room 127**

**Instructor: Matthew Hacholski**  
**Email: [mhacholski@elcamino.edu](mailto:mhacholski@elcamino.edu)**  
**Voicemail: 310-660-3593 x4802**  
**Office Hours: By Appt**  
**Location: ARTB 320**

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### **Course Description**

This course is a survey of the political, economic, social, and cultural development of World Civilizations from the origins of these complex cultures in the Neolithic era to the emergence of the West in the fifteenth century. Topics include the early civilizations of the Near East, Egypt, India, China, the Americas, Greece, and Rome.

### **Required Texts**

Richard W. Bulliet et al., [The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History, Volume I: To 1550](#), Cengage Learning, 2015, 6<sup>th</sup> edition ISBN-13: 978-1285436913.

### **Rules of Conduct**

Show up to class prepared and ready to learn. Treat others as you wish to be treated; with respect. This respect should be shown to your instructor and fellow students. Class participation and discussion is an essential part of the learning process; however, refrain from inappropriate or offensive language. Any anti-social behavior is unacceptable. Mute cell phones before class begins. Electronic devices are permitted in class for note-taking and class-related research only. Food and beverages are not permitted in the classrooms. The instructor reserves the right to prescribe a proportionate penalty upon infraction.

### **Academic Integrity**

El Camino College is a community which believes the pathway to success is paved through honest work. Academic dishonesty of any kind distorts the learning process and will result in you receiving an automatic zero for the assignment or exam in question and an official referral to the dean as appropriate. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, such as viewing your neighbor's exam, plagiarism or copying someone else's work (often from the internet) and presenting it as your own, as well as falsification and facilitation.

### **Accommodation for Disabilities:**

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability who would like to request an academic accommodation is responsible for talking with the instructor and the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center at 310-660-3295.

**Attendance/Drop Policy/Absence**

Attendance will be taken at the start of every class. If you do not appear by the end of the first class, you may be dropped due to enrollment demand. More than three absences may result in you being dropped from the class. Should you wish to withdraw, as a student, you are responsible for meeting the class withdrawal date.

**Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Assess the significance of agriculture in the development of complex cultures and identify the major characteristics of early agricultural societies.
2. Analyze the impact of geographical features in the formation and evolution of early civilizations of the Near East, Egypt, South Asia, China, and the Americas.
3. Compare and contrast the political, religious, economic, and social institutions of early civilizations of the Near East, Egypt, South Asia, China, and the Americas.
4. Assess the role of Nomadic societies in the development of early agricultural civilizations.
5. Discuss the major characteristics of the Classical Era and identify what distinguishes it from earlier historical periods.
6. Identify and analyze the ways Classical civilizations of the Near East, South Asia, China, and the Mediterranean maintained or transformed earlier institutions and traditions.
7. Examine the various ways in which cultural encounters occurred and identify significant cross-cultural exchanges that took place during the Classical Era.
8. Compare the major legacies of Classical civilizations in the Near East, South Asia, China, and the Mediterranean.
9. Identify the major characteristics of the Post-Classical era and discuss what distinguishes it from earlier historical periods.
10. Assess the contributions of earlier civilizations to the development of the Post-Classical societies of Medieval Europe, the Byzantine Empire, and the Islamic Empire.
11. Analyze the political, economic, social, and cultural evolution of South Asian and Chinese civilizations in the Post-Classical era.
12. Evaluate the spread of South Asian culture throughout the Indian Ocean Basin and the spread of Chinese culture in East Asia.
13. Explain and analyze the origins, basic beliefs, and diffusions of the world's major religious traditions: Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam.
14. Identify and assess the major legacies of Post-Classical civilizations in the Near East, Africa, South Asia, China, and Europe.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of History of Early Civilizations, students will be able to develop and persuasively argue a historical thesis in a written assignment that identifies and explains major social, economic, political and/or cultural historical themes or patterns in the history of Early Civilizations and apply appropriate historical methods to analyze and use primary and/or secondary sources as evidence to support the thesis.

## Grading Scheme

Your grade will be a 500 point-based evaluation using the following weighed categories.

Participation 50 (10%)	A 500 - 450
Assignments 50 (10%)	B 449 - 400
Homework 45 & Conference 5 (9% & 1%)	C 399 - 350
Mid-Term Exam 115 (23%)	D 349 - 300
Final Exam 115 (23%)	F 299 - 0
Research Essay 120 (24%)	

## Assignments

Among other tasks, you are expected to complete five separate assignments either in or outside of class meetings. Each assignment explores a distinct element of historical thinking and is worth 2% of your final grade. Four of these assignments must be completed individually whose topics are listed below:

- 1) **Map Assignment**
- 2) **Movie Review**
- 3) **Historical Identification**
- 4) **Primary Source Analysis**
- 5) **In-Class Presentation**

The fifth and final assignment is an **In-class Presentation**. Each student will be assigned a group and an event from the chronology list. This will be the topic for the group presentation and for the research essay that is due at the end of the course. Throughout the course, each group will provide a 15 min. presentation of that group's assigned event. The type of presentation is to be a group decision. It may be a historical drama, a short audio or web clip or PowerPoint explanation. **All members of the groups must contribute** to the organization and presentation of the material. The presentation should focus on two issues: 1) defining and giving a brief background to the event (who, what, where, when) & 2) the importance or significance of the event to the United States. If you have questions about the organization or presentation of your topic I will be glad to help.

## Participation

There are three principal ways students can participate:

- 1) In Class: by asking and answering questions in class,
- 2) Group: by contributing to their group discussions and assignments, and
- 3) Debate: by constructing or articulating the position of their assigned team their while listening to the arguments of their opponents.

Note: Participation, HW and Assignments together count for 30 percent of your grade.

Attendance and assignment completion therefore is a significant portion of your grade! There is no grading curve and extra credit should not be necessary.

## Exams & Research Essay

Your Mid-Term and Final are each comprised of two sections; multiple choice and short answer. Each multiple choice section possesses 40 questions while each short answer section includes 12

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key terms. From the 12 key terms, six must be selected and responded to. The question portion is valued at 80% while the key terms 20% of the exam grade. A 6-page research paper is also required. Each submission must include an outline, essay and Works Cited. Detailed instructions for the research essay will be provided in-class. It is very important that you read the essay instructions carefully. A **typed paper copy** of the research essay must be delivered in-person to the instructor in the assigned classroom by **the end of the final exam period on the last day of class** in order to receive full credit. The final covers only the second portion of the class.

### **Make Up-Exams/Late Work**

Make-ups exams are only allowed for extreme situations which must be documented, such as, death of immediate family, medical emergency, etc. Note, you must contact me; otherwise, I will assume you intended to fail. If you fail to turn in your research essay on time, the final grade will deducted 10 percent every day overdue. Please note students cannot make-up the final exam.

### **Emergency Protocols and Evacuation**

To ensure the health and safety of all students, those who feel they may need evacuation assistance in the event of an emergency should speak with their instructor as soon as possible.

## **Calendar**

Week 1: The Origins of Agriculture and the River Valleys

- A) Pre – History and the Origin of Humanity
- B) Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt
- C) The Indus Valley Civilization

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 1

Week 2: New Civilizations in the Eastern and Western Hemisphere

- A) Early China
- B) New Kingdom Egypt
- C) The Olmecs and Chavin Civilizations

#### **D) Map Assignment Due**

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 2

Week 3: The Near East and the Mediterranean

- A) Babylon and Israel
- B) Assyria and Phoenicia
- C) The Aegean World

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 3

Week 4: Persia and Greece

- A) Cyrus the Great and the Persian Empire
- B) The Classical Greek City States
- C) Alexander and the Hellenistic World

#### **D) Movie Review Due**

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 4

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Week 5: Rome and China

- A) The Roman Republic
- B) The Roman Empire
- C) Qin and Han China

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 5

Week 6: India and Southeast Asia

- A) The Aryan Migration & Vedic India
- B) Buddhism, Empires, and City-States
- C) Ancient Peoples and the Polynesia

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 6

Week 7: Networks of Communication and Exchange

- A) The Silk Road and Indian Ocean Trade
- B) Sub-Saharan Africa
- C) The Spread of Ideas

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 7

**Week 8: Mid-Term Exam - Bring a Scantron (886-E), and a No.2 Pencil**

- A) Thursday Review & Mid-Term Exam**
- B) Historical Identification Assignment Due**

Week 9: The Rise of Islam

- A) The Origins of Islam
- B) Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates
- C) Islamic Civilization

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 8

Week 10: Christian Europe and the Dark Ages

- A) The Byzantine Empire
- B) The Feudal Kingdoms of Europe
- C) The Western Church: Conversion and Crusades

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 9

Week 11: The Peoples of the Americas

- A) the Yucatan Mayans
- B) The Andean Civilizations and Incas
- C) The Mesoamericans and the Aztecs

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 10

Week 12: Mongol Eurasia and the Aftermath

- A) Gheghis Khan and rise of the Mongols
- B) The Mongol Khanates and China
- C) **Primary Source Analysis Assignment Due**

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 11

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Week 13: Topical Africa and Eurasia

- A) West Africa: Ghana and Mali Empires
- B) The Delhi Sultanate
- C) The Majaphahit Empire

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 12

Week 14: The Latin West & Orthodox East

- A) The High Middle Ages
- B) The Medieval University
- C) Kievan Russia

**D) Outline and Works Cited Due**

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 13

Week 15: The Renaissance and Maritime Revolution

- A) The Italian City-States
- B) When Civilizations meet
- C) European exploration and expansion
- D) The Spanish Conquest of the Americas

Reading: *The Earth and its Peoples* Chapter 14

Week 16:: **Final Exam @ 11:15AM**

**Bring a Scantron (886-E), and a No.2 Pencil! Research Essay Due @ 12:40PM**