

**History 140**  
**History of Early Civilizations**  
**Fall 2009**

Section #2332 - T. and TH. 9:30-10:55  
Room: SOCS 206

Instructor: Dr. Florence M. Baker  
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Office Hours: M. and W. 1:00-3:00, T. 2:00-3:00  
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Course web site: <http://www.elcamino.edu/Faculty/fbaker/History3/>

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Not to know is bad.  
Not to want to know is worse.  
Not to hope is unthinkable.  
Not to dare is unforgivable.  
(Ibo proverb)

A goal is a vision whispered to the heart.

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## **1. Course Description**

The History of Early Civilizations is a survey of the political, economic and social development of complex societies from the origins of civilization in the Neolithic Revolution to the rise of the West in the mid-fifteenth century. The first part of this course examines the early civilizations that appeared in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas. The second part deals with the transmission and transmutation of the traditions of these complex cultures in the Classical civilizations of Persia, Greece, Rome, China, and India. Part three concerns the Post-Classical period that saw the emergence of Islamic, Byzantine and Western European Medieval civilizations.

## **2. Course Overview**

The purpose of this course is to assist you in acquiring the resources and analytical skills necessary to better understand, appreciate and evaluate the development of world civilizations and their impact in shaping contemporary life. Class materials include lectures,

presentations, videos and assigned readings that will provide you with a basic framework of information. We will analyze these secondary sources as well as primary sources such as documents and cultural artifacts through class and group discussion and the writing of essay exams. In examining the past we will strive to identify and understand the broad patterns of human behavior and experience that comprise world history. We will focus on questions related to the emergence of early civilizations and their varying characteristics, the rise of patriarchy and women=s experiences in male dominated societies, the development of political and legal institutions, the growth of technology and trade, the impact of cross-cultural encounters and the formulation and spread of world religious traditions.

### 3. Required Text

Bentley and Ziegler. *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. Volume I: *From the Beginning to 1500*. Fourth Edition (2008).

A Study Guide for this text is available online at [www.mhhe.com/bentley4](http://www.mhhe.com/bentley4) and additional resources can be found at [www.mhhe.com/psi](http://www.mhhe.com/psi)

### 4. Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course students 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.

## 5. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Upon completion of History 140, students will identify and explain major social, economic, political and cultural themes in the History of Early Civilizations in a course exam or written assignment.
2. Given a primary or secondary source relating to the history of the Early Civilizations, students will accurately identify the source and apply appropriate historical methods to explain what the source reveals about its historical context.
3. Given primary and/or secondary source(s) pertaining to a significant aspect of economic, political, social or cultural life in the history of Early Civilizations, students will develop and persuasively argue an historical thesis in a written or oral assignment that effectively uses the sources as evidence.

## 6. Course Requirements and Evaluations

You are required to complete all reading, writing and exam assignments. Your course grade will be determined in the following ways:

- 1) Class participation that includes small group discussions and projects. Your participation in these activities is required, and assignments will be assessed to determine your understanding of course material and your progress towards achieving course goals, but a grade will not be given to each assignment.
- 2) Three take home written essay exams of about 4 to 5 pages each, typed and double-spaced.

These assignments require an analysis of course material including secondary and primary sources. They will be evaluated and graded according to the following criteria:

Answer ----- Did you answer the question assigned? All parts?

Evidence ---- Are your statements supported with evidence from class materials such as readings and lectures?

Analysis ---- To what extent does your essay demonstrate your use of critical thinking?

Is there depth to your analysis? Is your argument presented logically and convincingly? Does it show your ability to synthesize diverse material and concepts?

Expression - Is your essay coherent, well-organized and written with clarity? Is your use of grammar and spelling correct?

- 3) Online Quizzes for Chapters 1 through 12

When you have finished reading a chapter, complete the Multiple Choice Quiz for the chapter.

These quizzes are found in the online Study Guide for your textbook. Go to:

[www.mhhe.com/bentley4](http://www.mhhe.com/bentley4) - click Student Edition, select chapter, click Multiple Choice Quiz.

When you have achieved a grade of 100% for the quiz, e-mail the results to me using your El Camino College e-mail account. To do this copy the quiz results and first question into an e-mail message. Send the e-mail message to [fbaker@elcamino.edu](mailto:fbaker@elcamino.edu) and show in the subject field History 140.

Note: These quizzes are meant to be completed and the results submitted to me over the course of the term as you read the chapters assigned each week. Keep a record of the quizzes you have completed.

Grades for assignments and the course are based on the letter system as follows:

A - Excellent > indicates that assignment/course requirements have been met and a mastery of assignment/course objectives

B - Good > indicates that assignment/course requirements have been met and an above average proficiency of assignment/course objectives

C - Satisfactory > indicates that assignment/course requirements have been met and an average proficiency of assignment/course objectives

D - Less than satisfactory > indicates that not all assignment/course requirements have been met and only a partial proficiency of assignment/course objectives

F - Fail > indicates that few assignment/course requirements have been met and little or no proficiency of assignment/course objectives.

## 7. Distribution of Grades

Class Participation -----	15% (attendance, discussions and short assignments)*
Midterm Essay #1 -----	25%
Midterm Essay #2 -----	25%
Final Essay Exam -----	25%
Online Quizzes -----	10%

\* Participation grade is based on attendance as follows: 1- 2 absences = A; 3-4 absences = B; 5 absences = C; 6 absences = D. Also note: two late arrivals to class = one absence.

## 8. Student Presentations

If you have a special interest in or experience with a subject related to this course and would like to present a short presentation to the class, please let me know. Also let me know if you have any materials or artifacts related to course material that you would like to share.

## 9. Course Policies

< In accordance with the college's policy on attendance you are expected to attend class regularly, to arrive in class on time and to remain for the duration of the class. You may be dropped from the class if you miss more than three class meetings.

< **Cell phones, pagers, etc. are to be turned off and put away during class meetings.**

< Only course related materials are to be on your desk during class meetings.

< Disruptive behavior, such as habitually arriving to class late or leaving class early, or talking during class will not be tolerated and will result in being suspended from class.

< Dishonest behavior, such as cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will result in being suspended from class and a written report will be made to the appropriate College authorities requesting further disciplinary action. Please see the El Camino College Catalog for examples of cheating and plagiarism that include:

- Representing the words, ideas or work of another as one's own in any academic exercise (plagiarism), including the use of commercial term paper companies [and such study aids as Cliff Notes and Spark Notes].
- Copying or allowing another student to copy from one's paper or answer sheet during an examination [this includes for credit and graded assignments completed outside of the classroom].
- Falsifying or attempting to falsify attendance records and/or grade rosters.

**History 140: History of Early Civilizations**  
**Schedule of lecture topics, assignments, and exams (Fall 2009)**

**Week**

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16

**Date**

8/31

9/7

9/14

9/21

9/28

10/5

10/12

10/19

10/26

11/2

11/9

11/16

11/23

11/30

12/7

12/14

**Lecture Topics**

Introduction; Early Human Societies;  
Neolithic Agricultural Revolution

**Monday: Labor Day - No Classes**

Emergence of Civilization in Mesopotamia

**Friday: Last Day to Add Classes**

Sumer; the Early Hebrews

Early African Societies; Egypt

India: Harappa and Vedic Aryan Civilizations

Early China: Shang and Zhou Dynasties

**Thursday: Midterm Exam #1 due**

Early American Societies; the Maya

**Friday: Online Quizzes due for Ch. 1-6**

The Classical Age; the Persian Empire

China: Unification, Society and Culture

India: Religious Rivalries, Mauryan Empire

Gupta Empire and India=s Golden Age;

**Thursday: Midterm Exam #2 due**

**Friday: Veteran=s Day - No Classes**

Classical Greece Society and Culture

**Friday: Last day to drop with a AW@**

Hellenistic Culture

**Thursday/Friday: Thanksgiving - No Classes**

Roman Republic; Roman Empire; Rise of Christianity

Decline of Classical Civilizations;

Introduction to Islam

**Friday: Online quizzes due for Ch. 7-12**

Islamic Empire

**Thursday: Final Exam due**

### **Readings**

Pp. 2-3; Ch. 1

Ch. 2, pp. 31-45

Ch. 2, pp. 45-55

Ch. 3

Ch. 4

Ch. 5

Ch. 6

Ch. 7

Ch. 8

Ch. 9

Ch. 10

Ch. 11

Ch. 12