

**History 140 Online- Hybrid: Early Civilizations**

Course Syllabus - Fall 2012

**Instructor:** Mr. Jason R. Suárez  
**Office:** SOCS 115

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**Office Hours:** T 6:30am-7:30am | W 5:00-6:00pm | TH 6:30-7:30 am & 5:00-6:00pm

**Online Office Hours:** M 8:00-9:00pm  
**Skype Online Office Hours:** M 8:00-9:00pm

**Course Web Site:** [http://suarezol.org](http://suarezol.org)

**What is a Hybrid Course?**

A Hybrid course merges the face-to-face interactions of a traditional course with the flexibility of an online course. It includes required on campus class meetings and required course content and activities accessed via a computer with an internet connection. In the hybrid setting you will be working closely with the instructor and with fellow students in your class in the same manner as you would in a traditional classroom. You will also learn to work online, both independently and with others. Throughout the semester you will complete a series of assessments and seminars during the mandatory class meetings. Please be aware that you will be dropped from this course if you fail to attend the first class meeting or if you miss two mandatory class meeting during the semester.

**Mandatory Class Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time/Room</th>
<th>Meeting Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Thursday of the semester</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm - BSS 127</td>
<td>Content review, objective examinations, discussions, midterm and final essay examinations.</td>
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**Distance Education**

Distance Education courses are designed for the student who desires flexibility and convenience in their studies. Students enrolled in online courses communicate with their instructor and classmates electronically via a course website. The instructor posts such things as lectures, assignments,
announcements, and other information to the site. If you do not have Internet access, be sure to use one of
the many computer labs accessible at El Camino College. For example, computers can be accessed at the
Library Media Technology Center (LMTC) located at the East Lower Level of Schauerman Library. Call
(310) 660-6715 for hours of operation. What software and hardware will you need for this course? You
must have at a minimum:

• Internet access

• A PC with Windows and a Pentium processor or a Macintosh with at least System 9.0

• A recent version of a web browser such as Microsoft Explorer or Firefox

• An Internet Service Provider

• An Email Address

• Microsoft Word version 2003 or earlier

• PDF File Reader

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of History of Early Civilizations - Hybrid, 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.

Course Objectives

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.
Required Books/Materials

The following books and materials are required for this course.


_________. *Historias: A Primary Source Reader*, LCJS Press, 2012. (Available online on instructor's website - you do not need to purchase this book)

Assessment Measures

Student achievement in History 140 Online - Hybrid will be assessed in four ways:

1. **Essay Examinations (40% of the grade):** Writing an effective college level in-class essay examination requires that students have knowledge of the subject matter and that students have the ability to organize the knowledge into a coherent set of arguments. An effective essay has a clear introduction, a solid body of evidence and argumentation and a firm conclusion based on what was written. Unlike take-home essay examinations, an in-class essay examination must also contend with time. To ensure that you are exposed to wide range of assessment measures, students enrolled in History 140 will complete two essay exams in which major social, economic, political and cultural patterns will be reconstructed through the analysis and evaluation of historical sources. Dates: Please see the top of this syllabus.

2. **Objective Examinations (30% of the grade):** Students will complete in-class examinations in which historical periods, themes and ideas will be analyzed and evaluated to determine the accuracy of their presentation. These examinations will test a student's course knowledge base and a student's ability to read critically.

3. **Seminars (25% of the grade):** Creating a community of learners through academic and social involvement in the classroom encourages students to be active participants in the learning process and promotes their persistence in the pursuit of their educational goals, whether it be completing a certificate program, attaining an Associate of Arts/Science degree, or transferring to a four-year institution. To emphasize this aspect of your academic training, students will collaboratively address a variety of historical questions by analyzing primary and secondary sources in a seminar setting.
4. **Resource Page (5% of the grade):** Students will be introduced to research methodology by constructing a resource page that will cite scholarly monographs, articles and websites for a selected topic within the scope of this course. Through the completion of this assignment, students will gain knowledge of library resources and research methods.

**Student Grade Record**

The course grade will be based on two essay exams, one process paper, and three objective exams. All assessment measures are graded on the 100% scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Should I be enrolled in this Course?**

History 140 Online - Hybrid is a college level history course. Consequently, it requires that students possess sound reading and writing skills. It also requires that students possess sound online learning skill sets. Students who are carrying an excessive load of classes this semester, who are working an excessive number of hours, who do not have internet learning skill sets, or who have not completed the recommended preparation eligibility of English 1A, are asked to carefully consider if they should be enrolled in this course.

**Email Communication**

I will communicate weekly with the class through email. I will send my communications to your El Camino College email account only. Be sure that it is up and running. If not, you need to contact the Admissions Office immediately. You must check your El Camino email account several times during each week of the semester.

**Attendance**

This course requires that you attend a campus meeting every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 pm in BSS 127. Attendance is taken every Thursday during our class meeting. During these class meetings I will review course content and administer student assessments in the form of objective exams, discussion topics and essay exams. You will be dropped from this course if you miss two Thursday class meetings. Please drop this course immediately if you cannot commit to three hours of class time a week and the required time necessary to prepare for this course outside of the classroom. If a student stops attending class, then it is their responsibility to drop the course. Failure to do so will result in an F issued for the course grade.
No Make-up Exams/Activities

Under no circumstances except for a documented medical reason will make-up exams/activities be administered.

Rules of Conduct

The instructor will not tolerate disruptive behavior in class. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: failing to complete assignments by their due date, failing to log in regularly into the course shell and failing to respect the opinions of your colleagues in online discussion. Dishonesty, plagiarism and cheating will result in immediate dismissal from this course. Please drop this course immediately if you cannot follow the rules of conduct cited above.

How to Succeed in this Course

What makes a successful college student? Successful college students accept personal responsibility, are self-motivated and have mastered time-management. This course will call upon students to adopt and apply these principles by requiring them to:

1. Study consistently throughout the semester
2. Stay on top of reading assignments.
3. Take detailed notes.
4. Review their notes regularly.
5. Have assignments ready in advance
6. Work on writing skills.
7. Attend class regularly.
8. Visit the instructor during office hours.

American with Disabilities Act

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 identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.

Also, please inform the instructor if you need course adaptations or accommodation in the classroom because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with your instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated.
Proposed Themes and Readings

The instructor reserves the right to alter or deviate from the proposed themes and reading schedule. Students will be notified in advance should changes be made. The most current schedule will always be available on the History 140 Online Course Content page. *Assignment and examination due dates are recorded on the course website.*

**COURSE TOPICS**

**Week 1: Course Introduction**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*

- Course syllabus
- History 140 Website

**Week 2: The Nature of Historical Knowledge**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*

- Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 1: *The Nature of Historical Knowledge* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)
- Seminar: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (located in Historias – prepare to discuss in class)
- Seminar: *Plows, Poems and Music*

**Week 3: A Modern Origin Story**

*Required Reading/Viewing:*

- Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 2: *A Modern Origin Story* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)

• Objective Exam 1: *The Nature of Historical Knowledge and A Modern Origin Story*

**Week 4: The Quantum Leap**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*


• Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 3: *The Quantum Leap* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)


• Spencer Wells: *Building a Family Tree* (online viewing)

• Seminar: *Reflective Thinking* (located in Historias – prepare to discuss in class)

**Week 5: The Seeds of Life**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*


• Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 4: *The Seeds of Life* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)


• Primary Source Analysis: *Halaf Culture* (located in Historias)

• Objective Examination 2: *The Quantum Leap and The Seeds of Life*
Week 6: The Rise of Archaic States

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:


- Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 5, *The Rise of Archaic States* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)


- Seminar: *Hammurabi's Law Code* (located in *Historias*—prepare to discuss in class)

Week 7: The Persistence of Gods

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:


- Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 6: *The Persistence of Gods* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)

- Seminar: *Etiology of Flood Stories* (link to sources will be provided – prepare to discuss in class)

- Objective Examination 3: *The Rise of the Archaic State* and *The Persistence of Gods*

Week 8: Midterm Examination

- Bring a blue book and a black and blue pen to class

Week 9: A New Technology

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing

- Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 7: A New Technology (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)
- PBS: Cracking the Maya Code (in-class viewing)

- Seminar: Deciphering Maya Writing (link to materials will be provided – prepare to discuss in class)

Week 10: The Genesis of Asia

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:


- Suárez, Scaffolds of History, Chapter 8: The Genesis of Asia (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)

- "Aśoka and Buddhism." Romila Thapar. Past & Present, No. 18 (Nov., 1960)

- Primary Source Analysis: Analects of Confucius (located in Historias)

- Objective Examination 4: A New Technology and The Genesis of Asia

Week 11: Theorists and Practitioners

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:


- Suárez, Scaffolds of History, Chapter 9: Covenants, Theorists and Practitioners (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)


- Seminar: The Funeral Oration - Thucydides (located in Historias— prepare to discuss in class)

Week 12: The Consequence of Monotheism

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

• Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 10: *The Consequence of Monotheism* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)


• Primary Source Analysis: *On the Harmony of Religions and Philosophy* - Ibn Rushd (located in Historias)

• Objective Examination 5: *Theorists and Practitioners* and *The Consequence of Monotheism*

**Week 13: Chasing Aristotle**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*


• Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 11: *Chasing Aristotle* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)

• Primary Source Analysis: *Summa Theologica* - Thomas Aquinas (located in Historias)

• Seminar: *The Name of the Rose* (film will be screened in class – discussion after film viewing)

**Week 14: Bridging Old Worlds and New Worlds**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*


• Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 12: *Bridging Old Worlds and New Worlds* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)

• Primary Source Analysis: *Catalan Atlas* (located in *Historias*)

• Objective Examination 6: *Chasing Aristotle* and *Bridging Old World and New Worlds*

**Week 15: Centers and Peripheries**

*Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:*


• Suárez, *Scaffolds of History*, Chapter 14: *Centers and Peripheries* (complete all the work sheets at the end of the chapter - they will be collected in class)


• Seminar: *The Chronicle of the Conquest of Guine* - Gomes Eannes de Azurara (located in *Historias*– prepare to discuss in class)

**Week 16: Final Essay Examination**

• Bring a blue book and a black or blue pen to class.