
The Americas

History 141

Palomar College

Summer 2018

History of the Americas Since 1800

Professor: Michael Argüello, Ph.D. (UC San Diego, 1990)

Section: # 50198 and 50361 8-week Summer Session

Office: MD 371 Department of Economics, History, and Political Science

Hours: Summer office hours on Skype, by appointment.

E-mail: marguello@palomar.edu

Skype name: gaucho.mike

Web Page: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/marguello/>

Canvas Site: Easiest link is from the Palomar College homepage.
Use the Canvas Single Sign-On

Required Books

Mariano Azuela	<i>The Underdogs</i> (Novel—Pellon translation only)
Bruce Cumings	<i>The Korean War: A History</i>
Jordan Goodman	<i>The Devil and Mr. Casement</i>
Kevin Starr	<i>California</i>
Mario Vargas Llosa	<i>Death in the Andes: A Novel</i>
Colin Woodard	<i>American Nations</i> (Also for History 140)

Recommended Books

Joseph Boyden	<i>Louis Riel & Gabriel Dumont.</i>
Caleb Carr	<i>The Alienist</i>
Joel Kotkin	<i>The City</i>
Stephen Kinzer	<i>The Brothers</i>

- Students will select one of these books for inclusion in the Final Essay. Copies available from Palomar Bookstore, Instructor Reserve of the Library, and Amazon.

Why So Many Books?

1. There are no traditional textbooks for this course - History of the Americas.
2. It will not be necessary to read every chapter in all of these books. For example, the Woodard book is used in both History 140 and History 141.
3. If you explore the internet for the best price, you will pay less than what you would pay for a large one volume text on US or World history; rentals are available from the college bookstore.
4. Some of these books you may actually enjoy reading!

Required Films

Several films are required viewing for the course, and are located in the course Canvas site.

The Syllabus area of the class Canvas site has a link to a web site with information on finding the best prices on these books. These books are available at Amazon.com, in the Palomar College Bookstore in paperback, for purchase or rental, and should be obtained as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

All course books are available for one-week check-out in the Instructor Reserve area of the Palomar College Library, 2nd floor, Main Desk. Many of these can also be obtained for free from local public libraries.

**Important Topics for the Course
(AKA “Student Learning Outcomes”)**

- The evolution of the unique economic, social, and political institutions of all the American nations.
- The effect of geography on national development.
- The development of unique national cultures in the 19th century.
- Global conflicts and their effects on the American nations.
- Economic, social, and political change in California since the arrival of Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American colonizers.
- The effects of migration and urbanization on the American nations.
- Trade and the effects of globalization on the Americas in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Grading Formula

Assignment	Points
Discussion & Skype Interview	20
Book Precis	20
Essay “History and the Novel”	20
Final Essay – How the Americas Change	40
Total	100

- Discussion points are earned by Discussion Board postings and/or Skype interviews.
- A book precis is a short 3-paragraph book report on course books selected by each student.
- The “History and the Novel” essay is a 3-page report on the historical context of two novels from the course readings.
- The Final essay is a 6-10 page summary of themes from course sources, written and video.

Grade Scale

Based upon a scale of 100 points.

Points	Grade
90 and above	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

Assignment Due Dates

Essay: History and the Novel	Sunday, August 5
Book Precis (2)	Sunday, August 12
Class Discussion closes	Wednesday, August 15
Final Essay	Friday, August 17