
The Americas

History 140

Palomar College

Summer 2018

History of the Americas Through 1800

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

Section: # 51124 4-week Intersession

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 top of the Palomar College homepage.
Use the Canvas Single Sign-On

Required Books

Allan Greer, ed.	<i>The Jesuit Relations</i>
Charles Mann	1493
Donna Pierce	<i>Spanish Colonial Art</i>
Matthew Restall	<i>Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest</i>
Peter Turchin	<i>War and Peace and War</i>
Colin Woodard	<i>American Nations</i>

Recommended Books

John Demos	<i>The Unredeemed Captive</i>
David Hackett Fischer	<i>Paul Revere's Ride</i>

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.
4. Some of these books you may actually enjoy reading!

The Course Books menu of my web page and the Syllabus area of the class Canvas site have more information on finding the best prices on these books online.

These books are available in the Palomar College Bookstore for sale and rent in paperback. All should be obtained as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

Multiple copies of all course books are available for free check-out in the Instructor Reserve area of the Palomar College Library, 2nd floor. A link to this page is available on my web site. Other public libraries also have most of these books available for free.

The Palomar College Bookstore offers rentals for most of these books at a very competitive price. Check the college bookstore web site for this information.

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

- Historical background to European expansion and conquest, from the time of Alexander to the 18th century.
- Main characteristics of the theme: Big History
- Conditions in the Western Hemisphere and Europe at the time of contact with the Americas in the fifteenth century.
- The location (geography) and social distinctiveness of the imperial possessions of Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, France, and England, and their relations and conflicts with native communities and states.
- Changing historical interpretations of this process over time, including the use of primary historical sources.
- Economic characteristics and political rivalries of the imperial systems.
- The growth of national identities among local and regional elites within the British, Portuguese, and Spanish empires in the eighteenth century.

Course Grading Formula

Assignment	Points
Discussion & Skype Interview	20
Essay: Historical Methods	20
Book Précis (2 x 10)	20
Final Essay	40
Total	100

NOTE Discussion points earned by Discussion Board postings and/or Skype interviews. The Historical Methods essay is a 3-page report on the Restall and Greer books. A book précis is a short 3-paragraph book report on course books selected by each student. 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

Grades are recorded in each students’ Canvas account.

Important Dates

Assignment	Date
Essay: Historical Methods	Monday, June 18
Book Precis (2)	Monday, June 18
Class Discussion closes	Wednesday, June 20
Final Essay	Friday, June 22