WELCOME!

Welcome to History 204-A, CRN 34319, Western Civilization. My name is Professor Clark and I am your online facilitator, instructor, coach, and cheering section for this class. A little bit about me. I am a native to San Luis Obispo County; I am married with two children. After graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, I pursued a career as a museum professional. Now I teach history and I enjoy discussing all topics related to history. If you have questions regarding this course, it is best to contact me at ronald_clark@cuesta.edu. I am pretty good at returning email promptly and I will respond as soon as I possibly can which is usually within 24 hours.

COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

We will be using a new Learning Management System called Canvas and to be honest, we will ALL be learning to use this system so please be patient, but don’t hesitate to contact me with questions. Here is a link to videos: https://apps.3cmediasolutions.org/oei/students.htmlLinks to an external site.; https://guides.instructure.com/m/8470.

HOW TO ACCESS THE CANVAS LEARNING COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

To log on to Canvas, simply logon to your My.Cuesta account. A link to canvas will be located there. Clicking on that link will take you to your online classes in Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 204-A covers Western Civilization up to 1600. The focus will be on the social, economic, and political development of Europe to that time.

The textbook you will be using Joshua Cole and Carol Symes Western Civilizations, Vol. 1, 19th Edition. For an Ebook version of this textbook, follow this link: https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393614312
HOW LONG IS THIS CLASS?

This class begins on Tuesday, January 21 and it will end on Thursday, May 17. This class is fully online which means all class activities, including exams, are done online. The schedule is below. Please mark your calendars for the exam dates below.

1. Tuesday, January 21 – Saturday, January 25, Orientation to the class website
2. Wednesday, February 15 1st Online Exam
3. Wednesday, March 15 2nd Online Exam
4. Wednesday, April 12 3rd Online Exam.
5. Wednesday, May 17 4th Online Exam.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
As students you have ten learning objectives. By the end of the semester you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of the history of Western Civilization up to about 1600
2. Interpret and analyze primary sources, meaning sources produced by participants in the historical events being studied (such as letters, diaries, speeches, documents).
3. Interpret and analyze secondary sources, meaning sources produced by historians studying the past (such as articles, textbooks, and quotations from book-length historical studies).
4. Demonstrate an understanding of diverse cultures and political and social structures, and how these vary across time and place.
5. Demonstrate ability to interpret primary and secondary sources and to compose an argument which uses them, as appropriate for support.
6. Analyzed the concept of the West
7. Analyze changes in political, social, and economic organization in the Western World, and explain their historical significance.
8. Explain the historical significance of major discoveries, inventions, and scientific achievements.
9. Explain the historical significance in art, architecture, and literature.

THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

It is very likely that you have enough understanding about computers to be successful in this class. If you can access your email, download attachments, use a word processing application such as Microsoft Word and you have access to a fairly new computer and the internet then you have all of the tools needed to be successful in this class. But that is just the technical part of an online class. Online classes also demand dedication in time to reading posted materials and writing
independently and in discussion forums. In many ways it is more than an online class. You will be a part of a community and you need to participate and be a part of the community to be successful. The nice thing about online classes is that they can be accessed from anywhere at any time, but you have to put in the time. The minimum amount of time per week is around 10-hours.

EVERYONE LEARNS DIFFERENTLY

We all have different ways of learning. Some are visual learners while others are more auditory and still others may have additional ways they learn. Still others need a little help finding ways of learning. If you need additional assistance please contact me. I’m here to help in that regard. Additionally, you can contact the Cuesta College DSPS office at 805-546-3148 or you can go to their website at http://academic.cuesta.edu/acadsupp/dsp/0INFO.HTM Links to an external site as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements for all needed accommodations.

REMEMBER, THIS IS A COMMUNITY!

Ok, you know a little about me and you have a little bit of information about History 210. Now I invite you to come to the class website on January 21, where I will have an ice-breaker forum where you can introduce yourself. When you come be prepared to answer two questions. The first is how do you feel about history? Do you like it or not like it? Second, why do you like or not like it? Also, what are your hobbies or things you like to do. Do you like to travel or are do you do projects from home?

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you online!

Sincerely,

Professor Clark