

Course Outline for HIST 14

HISTORY AND AMERICAN CULTURES OF CALIFORNIA

Effective: Spring 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HIST 14 — HISTORY AND AMERICAN CULTURES OF CALIFORNIA — 3.00 units

The history of California from its pre-contact societies to the present, with particular attention to the following periods: Spanish exploration and colonization; the Mexican Revolution; American conquest and the Gold Rush; the Progressive Era; the Great Depression and World War II; and the social movements of the 1960's. In addition to exploring the major political, economic, technological, social, cultural, and environmental developments that have shaped California's history, this course will focus on the distinct and overlapping experiences of the state's Native American, Latino American, African American, Asian American, and European American populations.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

- History

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Identify the impact that geography has had on the development of California
- Identify the distinct experiences California Indians, Latino/a Americans, Asian Americans, African Americans, and Anglo Americans, and to be able to explain the ways in which California's diverse population has shaped its social, cultural, economic, and political development
- Identify and explain the significance of the following transformative events in California's history: the Missions; the Mexican Revolution; the Gold Rush; the transcontinental railroad; Progressive-era reforms; World War II; and social justice movements of the 1960s and 1970s
- Describe the historic relationship and interplay between the California state government and the United States federal government
- Identify the major developments in California's environmental history

V. CONTENT:

- Geography
 - Geographical regions of California, their geographical characteristics and precipitation patterns; its place in the Western Hemisphere and its Pacific Rim location.
- The First Californians
 - Origins and cultures of California Indians.
- Spanish Exploration and Settlement
 - Early exploration of California and ultimate settlement in 1769. The Sacred Expedition begins the Mission period and profound change for native peoples.
- Mexican Revolution
 - The effects of Mexican rule on California and its people: secularization of the missions, the development of the hide and tallow trade, and the rise of the Californios.
- The Gold Rush
 - The widespread consequences of the discovery of gold and its effects on Hispanics, California Indians and the Chinese as well as its effect on the nation.
- The Railroad Era
 - Building and completion of the transcontinental railroad. Changes in California result in the creation of a new state constitution featuring strong anti-Chinese sentiment. The national consequences of California statehood.
- Reform in California
 - The 1906 earthquake and corruption ushers in progressive reform of the political process and governmental regulation of the railroads and other public utilities.
- Controversies Over Land and Water
 - The exploitation of water resources in the Owens Valley, the Colorado River, and Northern California for the city of Los Angeles. The destruction of the Hetch Hetchy Valley to bring water to San Francisco. Modern water developments and

controversies.

I. The Great Depression

1. The nationwide depression strikes California particularly hard as Dust Bowl migrants flood into the state and the federal government forces repatriation of Hispanic Californians to Mexico.

J. World War II

1. Cornerstone to tremendous growth as California plays an integral part in the development of war industries and participation in the Pacific theatre. California gains over 2 million people who flock there in search of defense industry jobs. Lays the groundwork for high technology industries that evolve after the war. The drive toward social democracy, including violations of civil rights, racial discrimination and violence, Zoot Suit riots, braceros, and Japanese internment.

K. Cold War Politics

1. California continues to play an important role in the Cold War years. Communist fears and the rise of national figures from California: Earl Warren and Richard Nixon.

L. The Turbulent Sixties

1. Student protest movements in Berkeley, the rise of black radicalism in Oakland, the farmworkers' movement, the emergence of the counter-culture in San Francisco, feminism, and gay liberation.

M. Modern California Politics

1. Political and economic developments and the administrations of Pat Brown, Ronald Reagan, Jerry Brown, George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson, and Gray Davis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Jerry Brown (again).

N. General review – the role of California in United States history includes, as a state in 1850 under the United States Constitution, two California State Constitutions and succeeding amendments, and the evolution of local government.

O. The California Dream

1. Is the California Dream still alive or has it turned into the California Nightmare? Population pressures and its effect on the environment and quality of life in California.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Written assignments
- B. **Lecture** - on major themes, events, and personalities.
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** - In-class and home use of appropriate materials
- D. **Discussion** - significant and controversial issues, especially those of contemporary relevance
- E. Readings from the texts, supplementary materials, primary source materials.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Essay assignments that require the student to analyze major topics/readings in the course, including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. The Missions from different points of view (specifically, Native Californian and Spanish)
 2. Conflicts over land and water in the second half of the 19th century
 3. Racial and ethnic conflicts during the California Gold Rush
 4. John Steinbeck's depiction of agricultural workers during the Great Depression
 5. The impact of World War II on California
- B. Student oral presentations on major figures and events in California history
- C. Analysis of a film depicting an aspect of California history
- D. Research project on a major historical event, course theme, or region of California

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Oral Presentation
6. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

1. Two midterm examinations and a final exam
2. Weekly reading quizzes
3. One Research Project
4. Two papers/essays
5. One oral presentation
6. Class participation evaluated for each class meeting

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Rawls, James, and Walton Bean. *California: An Interpretive History*. tenth edition, ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2012.
2. Margolin, Malcolm. *The Ohlone Way*. Heyday Books, 1978.
3. Wakatsuki, Jeanne. *Farewell to Manzanar*. Ember, 2012.
4. Chan, Sucheng. *Major Problems in California History*. 1st ed., Houghton Mifflin, 1996.
5. Perouse, Jean. *Life in a California Mission: Monterey in 1786*. 1st ed., Heyday, 1989.
6. Rice, Richard, William Bullough, Richard Orsi, and Mary Irwin. *The Elusive Eden*. 4th ed., Waveland Press, Inc., 2017.
7. Deverell, William, and David Igler. *A Companion to California History*. 1st ed., John Wiley and Sons, LTD, 2014.
8. Glass, Fred. *From Mission to Microchip: A History of the California Labor Movement*. 1st ed., University of California Press, 2016.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Outline Notes, Study Guides, and/or Readers prepared by instructors.