

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for HIST 14

### HIST AND AMER CULTURES CALIF

Effective: Fall 2008

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HIST 14 — HIST AND AMER CULTURES CALIF — 3.00 units

Historical development of California, including Spanish exploration and settlement, the Mexican Revolution and transformation, the American conquest, the Gold Rush and dynamic expansion to the present day. In addition to exploring the political, economic, cultural and social factors affecting the development of California, the course will focus on the roles and interactions of Native Americans, Latino Americans, European Americans and Asian Americans within the larger context of California history.

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

#### Discipline:

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

1. explain the impact of geography on the development of California within United States history;
2. demonstrate an understanding of how California Indians, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, and Anglo Americans have shaped California society;
3. analyze the often problematic interactions between these diverse groups from the perspective of each in the context of the changing historical circumstances and events;
4. demonstrate an understanding of the catalytic forces of change unleashed by the significant events in California's history: the Missions, the Mexican Revolution, the Gold Rush, the completion of the transcontinental railroad, the reform movement of the Progressives, and World War II.
5. identify the highly successful efforts of Californians in achieving a close functional relationship between the political, economic, and social aspects of their society.
6. describe the California state and local government and its relationship to the United States federal government.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Geography
  1. Geographical regions of California, their geographical characteristics and precipitation patterns; its place in the Western Hemisphere and its Pacific Rim location.
- B. The First Californians
  1. Origins and cultures of California Indians.
- C. Spanish Exploration and Settlement
  1. Early exploration of California and ultimate settlement in 1769. The Sacred Expedition begins the Mission period and profound change for native peoples.
- D. Mexican Revolution
  1. 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.
- E. The Gold Rush
  1. 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.
- F. The Railroad Era
  1. 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.
- G. Reform in California
  1. The 1906 earthquake and corruption ushers in progressive reform of the political process and governmental regulation of the railroads and other public utilities.
- H. Controversies Over Land and Water
  1. 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, and the emergence of the counter-culture in San Francisco, feminism, and student movements..

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., and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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. Reading: 1. "The Indian Testimony," pages 5-10 in the Reader. Discussion of the experiences of California Indians at the Spanish missions, their feelings about the proposed sainthood of Father Junipero Serra and the role of academia in refusing to examine and incorporate the Indian testimony in their historical interpretations. 2. "The California Conquest," pages 54-68 in the Reader. Analyze the effect of the Gold Rush and the flood of Anglo-Americans into California. Discussion of the reactions of Hispanics to their changing circumstances. B. Oral discussion of written assignments and lectures: 1. Be prepared to discuss in class the important themes discussed in the last lecture and reading/written assignment. 2. Student oral presentations on selected topics. C. Writing, problem solving or performance 1. Research and write a term paper pertaining to one of the areas discussed in this course. Cite references in proper MLA format, footnotes sources and include a bibliography. 2. After viewing a selected video, e.g., *Mi Familia* (My Family), be prepared to discuss or write a short paragraph concerning the major issues and problems of Mexican Americans and their families during the 1920s and 1930s.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Papers

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency of Evaluation
  - a. Two midterm examinations and final exam
  - b. Short essay papers

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Bean and Rawls. *California: An Interpretive History*. revised edition, ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2007.
2. Margolin *The Ohlone Way*., Heyday Books, 1978.
3. Wakatsuki Houston, J *Farewell to Manzanar*. ., Bantam Books., 0.
4. Huber *California State & Local Government in Crisis*. ., Educational Textbook Company, 2002.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

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