

HISTORY 240

History of California

Fall 2024

Class Information

Class meeting times: T/Th 8:00–9:20am

Classroom location: THH 102

Instructor Information

Dr. Andrew Shaler

Email: ashaler@usc.edu

Office Hours: by appointment (zoom and in-person)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history of California, exploring the diverse and multifaceted Indigenous histories that pre-date European settlement, Spanish and Russian exploration and colonization, Mexican independence, the Gold Rush era, through the twentieth century and into the present day. It will trace the cultural, social, political, and economic trends that have characterized the state's history from the pre-colonial era to the present. Most importantly, this class will draw closely on the experiences, voices, memories, and traditions of the highly diverse group of peoples that have shaped the history of California. This class will emphasize that history is the product of many differing and often opposing narratives, shaped by particular perspectives, traditions, and worldviews.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Over the course of the semester, students will gain a clear grasp of the rich and diverse voices and experiences that have shaped the state of California. Additionally, students will gain an understanding of the ways in which California's social, cultural, political, and economic landscape has changed over time, under the influence of Indigenous communities, Spanish colonialism, the Mexican Republic, and the United States.

In this course, students will learn to (A.) construct and support historical arguments regarding California's history, by drawing on historical thinking and methodology and (B.) make critical use of both primary and secondary historical sources in defending their arguments.

REQUIRED READINGS

All readings are listed on the course schedule, and are posted on our Brightspace site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 10%

Attending and actively engaging with class discussions and activities as led by your TA. Your Teaching Assistant will outline their requirements and expectations, and guidelines for your participation grade during your first discussion section meeting.

Paper 1 (Sep. 26): 20%

A 3-5 page paper in which you will explore an aspect of California's early history. Using our course readings (no outside research), you will construct a thesis statement that presents a specific *argument*.

Midterm Exam (Oct. 8): 20%

In-class examination consisting of short and long format essay prompts dealing with our course materials from the first half of the semester.

Paper 2 (Nov. 26): 25%

5-7 page paper that explores an aspect of California History, as based on your own outside reading/research. Essays must include a specific thesis, and draw on at least five scholarly (peer-reviewed) sources.

Final Examination: 25%

In-class non-cumulative examination consisting of both short and long format essay prompts dealing with all material covered in the second half of the semester.

LATE WORK POLICY

All late work will result in a drop of one sub-letter grade per day late. For example, a B+ paper, submitted the morning after it was due, will receive a B, for example. A paper that is more than 72 hours late will receive an F.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
67-69 D+
63-66 D
60-62 D-
0-59 F

COURSE SCHEDULE

***Note on readings: make sure to complete all assigned readings for the week PRIOR TO attending that week's discussion section.*

Week 1: Aug. 27 - 29

Lecture Topic: Class Introductions

Week 2: Sep. 3 - 5

Lecture Topic: Indigenous California History to 1542

READ: Akins and Bauer, "A People of the Land, and Land for the People," and "Native Spaces: Yuma"; Oral histories and narratives.

Week 3: Sep. 10 - 12

Lecture Topic: Early Native-European Encounters

READ: Akins and Bauer, "Beach Encounters: Indigenous People and the Age of Exploration, 1540-1769"; primary documents.

Week 4: Sep. 17 - 19

Lecture Topic: The Spanish Mission System

READ: Schneider, Schneider, and Panich, "Scaling Invisible Walls: Reasserting Indigenous Persistence in Mission-Era California"; primary documents.

Week 5: Sep. 24 - 26

Lecture Topic: The Spanish Mission System and Russian Colonization

READ: Jackson and Castillo, "Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization: The Impact of the Mission System on California Indians" (excerpt); Castillo, ed. and trans., "The Assassination of Andrés Quintana by the Indians of Mission Santa Cruz in 1812: The Narrative of Lorenzo Asisara"; Kent Lightfoot, "Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants: The Legacy of Colonial Encounters on the California Frontier" (excerpt); primary documents.

****PAPER 1 DUE: THURSDAY, SEP. 26****

Week 6: Oct. 1 - 3

Lecture Topic: The Mexican Era

READ: Lisbeth Haas, " 'Raise your sword and I will eat you': Luiseño scholar Pablo Tac, ca. 1841; Carlos Salomon, "Secularization in California: Pío Pico at Mission San Luis Rey."; primary documents.

Week 7: Oct. 8 - 10

Lecture Topic: Trappers, Traders, and the American Annexation

READ: Linda Heidenreich, " 'I do not like the white man: He is a Liar and a Thief': Testimonios and the Politics of Resistance"; primary documents.

****MIDTERM EXAM: TUESDAY, OCT. 8****

****FALL RECESS OCT 10-11: NO CLASS****

Week 8: Oct. 15 - 17

Lecture Topic: The California Gold Rush

READ: Stacey L. Smith, *Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction* (excerpt); primary documents.

Week 9: Oct. 22 - 24

Lecture Topic: The California Gold Rush

READ: Sucheng Chan, "A People of Exceptional Character: Ethnic Diversity, Nativism, and Racism in the California Gold Rush"; primary documents.

Week 10: Oct. 29 - 31

Lecture Topic: Immigration, Labor, and Genocide in the Late Nineteenth Century

READ: Trauner, "The Chinese as Medical Scapegoats in San Francisco, 1870-1905"; Benjamin Madley, "California's Yuki Indians: Defining Genocide in Native American History"; primary documents.

Week 11: Nov. 5 - 7

Lecture Topic: The Progressive Era

READ: Herbert P. Le Pore "Prelude to Prejudice: Hiram Johnson, Woodrow Wilson, and the California Alien Land Law of 1913"; Mark Spence, "Yosemite Indians and the National Park Ideal, 1864-1930"; primary documents.

Week 12: Nov. 12 - 14

Lecture Topic: California's Depression

READ: Josh Sides, "L.A.'s City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present," ch. 1; Gilbert et al., *The Indian School on Magnolia Avenue*; primary documents.

Week 13: Nov. 19 - 21

Lecture Topic: World War II and Japanese Internment

READ: Scott Kurashige, "The Shifting Grounds of Race: Black and Japanese Americans in the Making of Multiethnic Los Angeles," ch. 4-5; primary documents.

Week 14: Nov. 26 - 28

Lecture Topic: The Postwar Era and Social Justice Movements

READ: Sides, "L.A.'s City Limits," ch. 5-6; Heather Daly, "Fractured Relations at Home: The 1953 Termination Act's Effect on Tribal Relations throughout Southern California Indian Country"; primary documents.

****PAPER 2 DUE TUESDAY, NOV. 26****

****THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOV. 28****

Week 15: Dec. 3 - 5

Lecture Topic: Conclusions

READ: Bauer, "Stop Hunting Ishi"; Jordan T. Camp, "Reading the Writing on the Wall: The Los Angeles Uprising and the Carceral City."

Week 16: FINALS WEEK

****FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 4:30-6:30PM****