

California State University Channel Islands
History 369 (3 units)
California History and Culture

History 369 examines the broad range of history and culture of California from the earliest native settlements to the present. This class is also designed to help students think historically, using my CCCP formula (Change+Continuity+Connections=Perspective) to achieve this goal. A mastery of the dynamics of change, continuity, and connections (the interrelationships of political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual forces) provides students with the fundamental objective of studying history: Perspective, a deep sense of “the big picture” of the human record.

The following are the learning objectives approved by the history department for this course:

- (1) “Describe the location and culture of California’s Native American Indian peoples.
- (2) Compare and contrast the forces behind the Spanish, Mexican, and American geographic exploration and settlement of California.
- (3) Appraise the significance of the mission system under Spanish and Mexican rule.
- (4) Describe the life and society of California as a Mexican territory.
- (5) Evaluate California’s policies toward racialized minority groups.
- (6) Analyze the regional and hegemonic development of California’s railroads and their impact on the state’s economies.
- (7) Examine California’s political and economic growth in the 20th century.”

We will explore three major themes in this course:

- (1) The California Dream: Cultural Mythology and Social Reality
- (2) Insiders/Outsiders: Political-Economic-Social Stratification in state history
- (3) Technology and Its Impact on the Natural and Social Environment of California

Assignments and grading

There will be two midterm exams (**September 21** and **October 14**) and a final exam (**Monday, December 7, 4-6 pm**), consisting of objective and essay questions. There will also be one paper, a personal or family historical analysis (due **December 2**). Each test and the paper are worth 25 per cent of your course grade. A grade enhancement can be achieved through class participation, including regular and full attendance, proper classroom behavior, involvement in class discussion, and small group work. **This class will use the +/- option for course grade.**

Required reading

Rawls, James J. and Bean, Walton, *California: An Interpretive History* (Ninth edition, 2008)

Reading assignments should be completed by the date listed in the syllabus.

Note: Furlough days, mandated by the state, are listed in the syllabus. The furlough system has been adopted as one solution to state budget problems. Class time and instructor salaries have been reduced by about 10 per cent, but the course content is essentially the same as my past History 369 classes. I will not be able to answer calls or e-mails on furlough days.

(over)

History 369 Syllabus—page two

Syllabus of lectures/discussions and reading assignments

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. Please check with the instructor if you are absent to confirm that no changes in subject matter or assignments have been made.

August 24—Introduction to course/Images of California/Discussion of paper
August 26,31—The First Californians (Chs. 1-2) **(August 28 – Furlough Day)**
September 2—Spanish California (Chs. 3-4)

September 7 Holiday

September 9—Spanish California
September 14, 16—Mexican California (Chs. 5-7)

September 21 Exam #1

September 23—A New Frontier State (Chs. 8-12)
September 28—The Railroads and Industrialization (Chs. 13-18)
September 30—The Impact of Progressivism (Chs. 19-22)
October 5—Oil and Water, Cars and Movies (Chs. 23-24)
October 7—California and the Great Depression (Chs. 25-26)

October 14 Exam #2

October 19-21—The PESCI effects of World War II (Chs. 27-30)
October 26-28—Liberation and Conflict (Chs. 31-32)
November 2-4—The California Dream since 1976 (Chs. 33-36)
November 9—Insider/Outsider Dynamics since 1976

November 11 Holiday

November 16—Insider/Outsider Dynamics since 1976
November 18—Technology and the Environment since 1976

November 23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday Furlough Week (campus closed all week)

November 30-- Technology and the Environment since 1976

December 2 Paper Due

December 2—Discussion of paper

December 7 Final Exam, 4-6 pm