

History 450  
History of California

Syllabus

Dr. Mark Sigmon  
Fall 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Aug. 30	Introduction California Indians (thoughts on culture and diversity before Spanish contact)	Text ch. 1 Text. Ch. 2
Sep. 6	Spanish in California (Early exploration) Missions in California (Pro's and Con's)	Begin reading <u>Ishi in Two Worlds</u>  Text ch. 3-4
Sep. 13	Mission through history (Myth and Reality) Donner Party (m)	
Sep. 20	Mexican American War and the Bear Flag Revolt Gold Rush Catch up and Review	Text chs. 7-8
Sep. 27	FIRST MIDTERM (4-5)  Early Ethnic Conflict in Cal. (African Americans and Latinos)	Text chs 1-4, 7-8 <u>Book Review, Ishi DUE</u> Text ch. 11
Oct. 4	Early Ethnic Conflict in Cal.II (Genocide) Building the Railroad Chinese Experience in California (Bitter Strength)	Text chs. 13  Begin Reading <u>In Dubious Battle</u> Text chs. 14-15,18
Oct. 11	Progressivism (Railroad brought under reign) L.A. in the 20's (CooCooLand of the Golden West) California's Peculiar Institution (Migratory Farm Workers in the Central Valley)	Text ch. 20-21  Text. Ch. 23  Text ch. 19

Oct. 18	The Oakies Hard Times in California (The Great Depression) “We Have a Plan” Catch up and Review	Text ch. 25
Oct. 25	SECOND MIDTERM (4-5) Zoot Suit Riots (Latinos in Los Angeles during WWII) Port Chicago Mutiny	Text chs 11, 13-15, 18-21, 23, 25 <u>Book Review “In Dubious Battle” DUE</u> Text. Ch. 27
Nov. 1	Japanese Internment “Honor Bound” Nixon/Reagan and the California Cold War	Text ch. 28
Nov. 8	Berkeley in the 60’s	Text ch. 30-31
Nov. 15	Prop. 13 and the Taxpayers’ Revolt Modern Politics	Text ch. 33
Nov. 22	THANKSGIVING ( <b>NO CLASS</b> )	
Nov. 29	Water Issues and the Thirst of L.A. “Cadillac Desert” (m) John Muir and the Environmental Movement Mono Lake (Environmentalists Win One)	Text ch. 34  Text. Ch. 35
Dec. 6	The Times of Harvey Milk (m)	
Dec. 13	Prop 209 and the End of Affirmative Action “Making the Grade” Catch up and Review for Final	Text. Ch. 36
Wednesday December 20th	FINAL EXAM	Text 27-28, 30-31, 33-36

### Class Policy

The text for this course is Jim Rawl's California, An Interpretive History. The chapters read pretty quickly, but there are a lot of chapters to read. I would advise you to keep up with the reading. We will also be reading Theodora Kroeber's Ishi in Two Worlds, and John Steinbeck's In Dubious Battle. These books should be available in the bookstore. For those of you with internet access you can also order the books through Amazon.com.

We will have **THREE!** exams in this class. **You must take all three exams in order to pass the class.** If you know that you will be forced to miss an exam, let me know in advance and we can make alternative arrangements. We will also have **TWO!** Book reviews, 5-7 pages each. **You must do both book reviews in order to pass the class.** Each midterm exam will be worth 20% of your grade, each book review will be worth 10% of your grade and the Final Exam will be worth 40%.

If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, please see me privately to make arrangements. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is the campus office responsible for verifying that students have disability-related needs for academic accommodations, and for planning appropriate accommodations in cooperation with the students themselves and their instructors. You can make an appointment with SDRC by calling them at 415/338-2472. Or you may send them e-mail at [dprc@sfsu.edu](mailto:dprc@sfsu.edu). Their office is located in the Student Services Building rm. 110.

In a history class you should learn how to develop, express, and defend your positions both verbally and in writing. I would encourage you to develop your own opinions as long as you can support your ideas with historical evidence. In class you will be presented a wide variety of information in the form of lecture, the readings, and movies. You will be asked to draw independent conclusions from this body of information, and I will evaluate you on how well you defend your positions.

We will be dealing with sensitive topics in this class. I expect you to express your viewpoints, and I enjoy a spirited class discussion. However, it is essential that you respect your classmates and their opinions in order to build a forum of trust in which meaningful discussions can take place.

I will be holding office hours from 10-11 on Monday and Wednesday mornings, 11-12 on Tuesdays, and 3-4 on Wednesdays. My office is SCI 221. You can also reach me by e-mail at [Msigmon@sfsu.edu](mailto:Msigmon@sfsu.edu) or at my home address [profmark6945@hotmail.com](mailto:profmark6945@hotmail.com). I'm pretty faithful about answering e-mail. My office extension is 415/405-0350