

The History of California
Prof. Steve Leikin
San Francisco State University
Fall 2007

History 450 Section 3, 14589
Room: FA 193
Class Hours: MWF 12:10-1:00
Office: Science #221
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00; Wed. 6:00-6:50 and by appointment
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Course Description:

The history of California has been marked by the clash of different cultural groups. The focus of this course will be the interaction of Native American, Hispanic, Asian, African American and European American peoples during the past 200 years in California. In addition the historical background of contemporary politics will be addressed through a lecture/discussion format. This course meets the requirements for General Education and for State and Local Government.

Course Readings:

Required Books: (Available in the SFSU Bookstore in paperback)
Rawls and Bean, *California: An Interpretive History*
Chan and Olin, *Major Problems in California History*

Course Requirements:

All students are required to attend class daily.

Grades will be based on the following:

- 1) One in-class midterm exam (essay and/or short answers/multiple choice) (35% of grade)
 - 2) One final exam (essay and/or short answers/multiple choice) (35% of grade)
 - 3) Beginning with the second week, quizzes will be given at the end of every Friday's class (except week 8) based on the assigned readings. You are allowed to miss or fail three quizzes but passing grades on all other quizzes are required; that is, you must take and pass 10 of the 13 quizzes to receive any of this credit. (30% of grade).
- If you pass more than 10 quizzes you will receive extra credit for each additional quiz passed. The nature of that extra credit is still to be determined.

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Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Week 1: Aug. 29, 31

Topics: Introduction; The first Californians

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 1, 2

Week 2: Sept. 3 No class – Labor Day; Sept. 5, 7

Topics: The Spanish conquest; Mexico

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 3, 4

Major Problems: pp. 57-83.

Week 3: Sept. 10, 12, 14

Topics: Mexico continued

Reading: Rawls Chapters 5, 6

Major Problems: 84-95, 98-109

Week 4: Sept. 17, 19, 21

Topics: American exploration and conquest

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 7, 8, 9

Major Problems: 95-98.

Week 5: Sept. 24, 26, 28

Topics: American exploration and conquest

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 10, 11, 12

Major Problems: pp. 110-135

Week 6: Oct. 1, 3, 5

Topics: Rise of monopoly capitalism

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 13, 14

Major Problems, pp. 162-171

Week 7: Oct. 8, 10, 12

Topics: Class and race in industrial California

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 15-18

Week 8: Oct. 15, 17, 19

Topics: San Francisco Earthquake

MIDTERM EXAM ON FRIDAY OCT. 19

Week 9: Oct. 22, 24, 26

Topics: Labor and Conflict 1880-1920

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 19, 20

Major Problems, pp. 171-193

Week 10: Oct. 29, 31, Nov. 2

Topics: Progressive reform in California

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 21, 22

Major Problems: pp. 194-226.

History 450 Section 3

Syllabus Page 3

Week 11: Nov. 5, 7, 9

Topics: The 1920s and Hollywood

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 23, 24

Major Problems, pp. 227-263

Week 12: Nov. 12; No class -- Veterans Day; Nov. 14, 16

Topics: The Great Depression in California

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 25, 26

Major Problems, pp. 264-296

Week 13: Nov. 19-23; No class -- Thanksgiving vacation

Week 14: Nov. 26, 28, 30

Topics: The impact of war

Reading: Rawls, Chapter 27

Major Problems, pp. 298-324, 325-329.

Week 15: Dec. 3, 5, 7

Topics: Race and politics

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 28, 29

Week 16: Dec. 10, 12, 14

Topics: Politics of protest and reaction

Reading: Rawls, Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33

Major Problems, pp. 329-357, Chapters 13, 16

Week 17: Dec. 17: Possible Review Day

Final Exam: Friday Dec. 21, 10:45-1:15