

California History HIST 450.1

San Francisco State University, Fall 2007
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:35-1:50pm
Classroom: HSS 317
Instructor: Anthony Swanson

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm
& Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm, in SCI 224
Phone: (415)-338-6184
Email: swansona@sfsu.edu

Course Description:

This course is a survey of California History which begins with the study of Native-Americans, Spanish exploration and colonization of California, the Mexican era, and development since becoming a U.S. state. Major topics include- but are not limited to- Geography, the Missions of California, the Bear Flag Revolt, the Gold Rush, the rise of the automobile and Hollywood, Japanese-American internment during World War II, and the turbulent 1960s. An emphasis will also be placed on studying the various ethnic groups of California, the role of women, recent developments, and the state constitutions.

Texts:

1. Competing Visions: A History of California Robert Cherny, ET all.
2. Documents Set for California and The West in U.S. History Iris Engstrand
3. Ramona Helen Hunt Jackson
4. A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, Mary Rampola (optional)

Tentative Syllabus:

1) Course workload:

Exams: 70% = 700 points. There will be 1 midterm and 1 final examination. The midterm is worth 300 points and will consist of a blue book essay to be written in class and will also include the novel Ramona. The final exam will be worth 400 points and will include a bluebook as well multiple choice/true-false questions dealing with the last four chapters of Competing Visions.

Final exam date: Friday, December 21st 10:45am – 12:45pm.

Research Paper: 30% = 300 points. Your culminating experience will be to work with primary and secondary sources in order to write a research paper. You may chose from any number of topics in California history ranging from the Native American era through 1995. This paper must be 10-12 pages in length. **Due date: November 1st 12:35pm.**

Tentative total points = 1,000. THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

(2) Grading Criteria:

All grading is based on a point system-

For **examinations** your ability to use your class textbooks, discussions, or lecture material is essential. Students will write on an essay question in class; hints and suggestions will be provided by the instructor. You must be thorough, and use evidence and as much detail as possible to support your argument. **All exams will be closed-book; you may not use any notes or books when writing.** For exam essays, you do not have to use footnotes/endnotes, page numbers, or even quotations when citing material from the textbooks or lectures. Exams will not be cumulative.

For your **homework** you essentially have two assignments: Read your textbook and other assigned readings, and conduct research for your paper. It is essential to complete all assigned readings in a timely manner. Unless otherwise stated, all homework assignments are due by the given deadline. Please do not email me your research paper, but rather submit a “hard copy” by the deadline: November 1st. This paper should be written according to the Chicago Style format which can be found in the book you are encouraged to purchase, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History.

At the end of the semester, the points you have accumulated will be divided by the number of points possible for the class. This will determine your percentage and hence your letter grade for the class. You are welcome to take the class for credit/no credit, but must decide to do so by the fall semester deadline on October 22nd.

(3) Cheating and Plagiarizing:

Students caught cheating- whether in class during exams, writing the same research paper, or plagiarizing their research- will be subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism is submitting work that you claim to be your own but is not. Copying essays or other work from friends, copying paragraphs out of books, cutting and pasting paragraphs, sentences, or entire essays from the Internet, and downloading or purchasing essays from the Internet are all examples of cheating. If **any portion** of your research paper contains material copied from the Internet, a book, another student’s work, etc... you will receive a zero on your research paper and your grade will be affected accordingly. The same will apply to students caught cheating during examinations: You or however many of you caught cheating will fail the exam automatically and receive zero points. If you cheat and/or plagiarize I will also report you to the appropriate personnel at San Francisco State. Other consequences may include removal from the class or even the university.

(4) Class Attendance:

Copied from: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/current/genpol.htm>

- “Students are expected to attend classes regularly because classroom work is one of the necessary and important means of learning and of attaining the educational objectives of the institution.”
- “Students should not miss classes except for valid reasons, such as illness, accidents, or participation in officially approved university activities. When a

student is absent from classes, it is his/her responsibility to inform his/her instructors of the reason for the absence and to arrange to make up missed assignments and class work insofar as this is possible.”

- “Instructors make reasonable accommodation for students to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. The policy is available at www.sfsu.edu/~senate/policies/F00-212.html. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent.”
- “The instructor may consider regular attendance when assigning grades. In that case, the requirement for regular attendance must be stated in writing as part of the course requirements and distributed to students at the beginning of the semester.”

Regular attendance will be taken. There will be a sign-in sheet passed around on a daily basis. Students coming to class late must sign in at the end of class and indicate that they have come late. Students will also be required to attend class on a regular basis as participation is an important component of your experience. From time to time, I may assign additional reading to be done in class among students as a further way of taking attendance.

(5) Deadlines:

All homework assignments are **due at the beginning of class at 12:35pm**. I do not accept late work. All written work must be typed using a 12 point font (you can chose whichever font you like). (You may email me assignments if you are going to be late or absent, but please do not make a habit of emailing me all of your written work.

(6) Make up work:

A make-up for an examination will only be allowed if a serious, documented issue arises: a medical condition or sports event, etc... Being absent for an exam is discouraged- you will get a different exam if you do miss and will have to coordinate a make-up time. This may cause you to fall behind with your workload. I will also give a lower priority towards grading your make-up exam.

(7) Dropping or Withdrawing:

If you need to drop or withdraw from the class, the responsibility to do so is entirely yours. Classes dropped before 9/24/2007 will not affect your record. The last day to withdraw from class with the assurance of getting a “W” is 11/16/2007. After this date you will receive credit/no credit or a letter grade. Do not assume that I will automatically withdraw you if you stop showing up. Also, I cannot withdraw you after 11/16/2007.

(8) Student conduct in class:

- Use of cell phones will not be allowed! Please either turn them off or on silent mode while in class.

- You are expected to arrive in class on time and not leave early; if you must arrive late or need to leave early, please do so in a quiet manner so as not to be disruptive to students or myself. I realize that college students live complex lives. If you have work, health, family, or other concerns which are making it difficult to meet deadlines and attend class, please let me know so that we can work together to help you succeed in the class.
- Students engaging in disruptive behavior -fidgeting with cell phones, having private conversations, passing personal notes, or exhibiting other behavior which disrupts my lectures or announcements- WILL BE SUBJECT TO ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE! Disciplinary actions taken by the instructor begin with verbal warnings being issued, followed by written warnings being issued to BOTH the student AND the appropriate college personnel. Repeated disruptive behavior may result in suspension or even withdrawal from class by the instructor.
- **It is the responsibility of the student to bring the appropriate materials to class: Class textbooks, bluebooks, etc... Failure to do so will likely result in the loss of points.**
- **Please observe proper spelling and grammar rules when emailing me. I WILL IGNORE, DELETE, OR ASK YOU TO RESEND IMPROPERLY FORMATTED EMAILS.**
- Finally, this is your class for personal and professional development and growth. **Please be courteous and respectful of others in class.** This class will study a great deal of cultural diversity; please also be respectful of cultural diversity among your fellow students.

READING ASSIGNMENT CALENDARS TO BE DISTRIBUTED SOON...