

Brief Course Outline

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| Course Title: | California Calling | |
| Course Number and Section: | HISTORY | 3314F 550 |
| Instructor Name(s): | Nina Reid-Maroney | |
| Instructor Email(s): | nreidmar@uwo.ca | |

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Our course considers themes in recent American history using California as a critical frame. Working with primary materials of textual, visual, and aural culture, we will test the premise that the study of California's past provides a lens through which the political, social, and intellectual history of the United States appears—magnified and refracted, sometimes blurred, sometimes clarified.

Focusing our attention on the 20th century, we will proceed thematically, considering topics including histories of race, migration, dispossession, environmental crises, political power, personal aspiration, gender, civil rights, freedom, modernity, and post-modernity. We will also centre the creative and engaging historiographical tensions between mythic renderings of the “golden state” and its complex and troubled past, and will examine the way such tensions run like fault lines through narratives of California's history.

Learning Outcomes:

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| Understand major themes in recent California history in relation to broader national narratives |
| Be able to interpret and use a rich range of primary sources to support your own conclusions about the past |
| Be able to identify major historiographical issues in California history and defend your own point of view |
| Recognize the agency and power of people, both ordinary and exceptional, in the face of oppression |
| Understand the contemporary relevance of historical debates over race, gender, power, and the meaning of freedom |

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Weekly reading is posted on the course OWL site. In addition, there are two books for the course:

1. Tracy Brynne Voyles, *The Settler Sea: California's Salton Sea and the Consequences of Colonialism*
2. D. J. Waldie, *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*

Methods Of Evaluation:

| Assignment | Due Date mm/dd/yy | Weight - % |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Participation | weekly | 20 |
| Historiographical Critique | 23/10/24 | 20 |
| Primary Source Archive and Essay | 06/12/24 | 30 |
| Group Presentation | in class | 10 |
| Final Exam | TBA | 20 |

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Saturday, August 3, 2024