



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	HIST
Course Number:	129
Descriptive Title:	History of Los Angeles
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	History
Course Disciplines:	History
Catalog Description:	This course surveys the political, social, and economic history of Los Angeles from its earliest settlement by Native Americans to the present. Topics include environmental issues, urban development, race and ethnicity, the entertainment industry, and the media's portrayal of Los Angeles. Special emphasis is given to the expanding role of Los Angeles as a global city that is a destination for diverse immigrant populations and a center of international commerce.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	12/18/2006
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 2007
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
Term:	

Other:	
Cal-GETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Developing and Arguing a Persuasive Historical Thesis Upon completion of History of Los Angeles, students will be able to develop and persuasively argue a historical thesis in a written assignment that identifies and explains major social, economic, political and/or cultural historical themes or patterns in Los Angeles history and apply appropriate historical methods to analyze and use primary and/or secondary sources as evidence to support the thesis.
Course Objectives:	1. Assess the significance of the environment and geographical location in the development of Los Angeles. 2. Compare and contrast the motives of the Gabrielino and Tongva peoples and the Spanish for settling in the Los Angeles Basin and discuss each group's interaction with the natural environment. 3. Discuss the Spanish Mission and Mexican Ranchero systems and analyze the impact of these institutions on the Gabrielino and Tongva peoples and the city of Los Angeles. 4. Trace the arrival of settlers from the United States and evaluate their impact on the environment, race relations, the economy and politics during the second half of the nineteenth century. 5. Discuss ways in which city "boosters" attracted newcomers to Los Angeles in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the development and growth of the urban infrastructure. 6. Describe political corruption in local Los Angeles politics during the first half of the twentieth century, and the successes and failures of reform movements to end the corruption. 7. Describe the development of the film industry in New York City and relocation to Los Angeles, and its impact on the social and economic life of the city and world. 8. Discuss the impact of the Great Depression on Los Angeles and the City's response to poverty within the national context of the New Deal. 9. Trace the relationship between the Los Angeles economy and military spending by the federal government during World War II and the Cold War and the social and economic development of Los Angeles during the war and post war period. 10. Explain the explosive growth of suburbs and consumerism during the postwar period, the impact of urban planning, and the political developments of the post war period. 11. Assess the role of social movements in shaping Los Angeles after the 1950s, including the impact of local and national politics. 12. Analyze the impact of the Federal Immigration Act of 1965 on Los Angeles, how the city has dealt with immigrants and how immigrants have shaped Los Angeles since 1965. 13. Assess the institutional and popular responses to major issues (crime, traffic, education, drought) in the late twentieth century and how residents tried to address these problems. 14. Identify and analyze critical issues facing Los Angeles in the twenty-first century.
Major Topics:	I. Introduction and Los Angeles Historiography (3 hours, lecture) II. Early Settlement and Development (9 hours, lecture) A. Geography and the Environment

- B. The Gabrielino and Tongva Peoples
- C. Spanish Colonization, 1542-1821: The Pueblo at Los Angeles
- D. The Spanish Mission System - San Gabriel Mission
- E. The Mexican Era, 1821-1848
 - 1. California's Relationship with the Gabrielino and Tongva Peoples
 - 2. The Ranchero Economy
 - 3. Land Grants in Los Angeles
 - 4. The Evolving Social Condition of Women
 - 5. The Mexican American War, 1846-1848
- F. United States: Early Growth and Development
 - 1. United States Colonization and Early Migration to Los Angeles
 - 2. Nativism, Racism, and Violence
 - 4. Boosterism and Urban Growth and the Selling of Los Angeles
 - 5. Economic Growth (Oil, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Real Estate)
 - 6. Building the Infrastructure (Harbor, Transportation, Public Works)
- III. The Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century (6 hours, lecture)**
 - A. Midwestern Migrants and Values
 - B. Residential Architecture
 - C. Bringing Water to Los Angeles
 - D. Political Corruption and Progressive Reform
 - E. Radicalism, the Labor Movement, and Conservatism
- IV. The 1920s (3 hours, lecture)**
 - A. Boosterism and Urban Growth
 - B. The Expanding Economy
 - C. Mexican Immigration
 - D. Hollywood and the Film Industry
- V. The Great Depression (6 hours, lecture)**
 - A. Poverty and the Local Response
 - B. Unions: Opposition and Growth
 - C. The New Deal
- VI. World War II (3 hours, lecture)**
 - A. The Military Presence
 - B. Industrial Expansion: Aircraft Industry and Ship-Building
 - C. Racism and Rioting
 - 1. Japanese Internment
 - 2. Zoot Suit Riots
- VIII. Postwar Period (6 hours, lecture)**
 - A. Economic Prosperity and Consumerism
 - B. The Cold War and Anti-Communism
 - 1. The Hollywood Ten
 - 2. Chavez Ravine
 - C. Urban Growth
 - 1. Suburbanization and Community Planning
 - 2. The Automobile and Highway Construction
- IX. Los Angeles in the Era of Civil Rights and Social Movements (3 hours, lecture)**
 - A. Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Chicano and Asian Movements

	B. Anti-War, student, Gay and Lesbian and Counterculture movements X. Immigration, Migration and Community-Building in the Twentieth Century (6 hours, lecture) A. Borderlands and Cultural Exchange B. Immigrant Labor C. African Americans 1. The 1965 and 1992 Revolts 4. Politics and the Bradley Coalition D. Immigration Since 1965 XI. The Late Twentieth Century (3 hours, lecture) A. The Environment 1. Earthquakes, Floods, Fires, and Droughts B. The Economy: Booms and Busts 1. Stagflation and the Energy Crisis C. Politics: Los Angeles and California and the nation D. Los Angeles Police Department XI. Los Angeles in the 21st century (6 hours, lecture) A. Demographics B. Housing and the unhoused C. Economy and Culture
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Read the introduction and chapters one through three in William Deverell and Greg Hise's book, <i>Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles</i> . In a five-page essay, provide an overview of the natural environment in the Los Angeles basin and then compare and contrast the ways Native Americans and Californios interacted with that environment. Develop an argument about the most important feature of the environment that helps us understand Los Angeles.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Historian Roger Waldinger argues that "Los Angeles had grown through migration, but it had historically preferred migrants of the Midwestern, white, Protestant type. Of course, African Americans, Mexicans, and Asians had also headed for Los Angeles in the past, but they had rarely been treated with much kindness, nor had they enjoyed the full fruits of the region's bounteous economy. Using George Sanchez's book <i>Becoming Mexican American</i> write an eight-page essay analyzing whether Sanchez would agree or disagree with Waldinger's statement. Support your position using evidence from Sanchez and other course materials.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	After reading Raymond Chandler's novel, <i>The Big Sleep</i> , and viewing the film, <i>Double Indemnity</i> , write a five-page essay that summarizes the Film Noir depiction of political and social life in Los Angeles in the mid-twentieth century. Referring to the relevant

	chapters in Mike Davis' textbook, <i>Ecology of Fear</i> assess the historical accuracy of that depiction.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Objective Exam, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Field trips, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Other (specify), Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	William Deverell and Greg Hise, <u>Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles</u>, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006. Discipline Standard George Sanchez, <u>Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Los Angeles, 1900-1945</u>, Oxford Press, 1995. Discipline Standard
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster Paperback by <u>Mike Davis</u> Publisher : Verso; Reprint edition (February 15, 2022)
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A/C1000 or equivalent

Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	Students need to be able to read and effectively analyze college level texts, and they need to be able to write a paper that persuasively proves an original thesis. A student needs to have good reading skills to understand and interpret information provided in their textbooks. Also, writing is required for essay questions and papers assigned. Read and apply critical thinking skills to college-level expository prose for the purposes of writing and discussion. Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques. Utilize comprehension and vocabulary strategies to improve reading rate. Select and employ reading strategies to interpret the content of a college level textbook, with special focus on constructing a thesis statement and providing valid support. Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Christina Gold
Date:	10/01/2006
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	John Baranski
Date:	04/03/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026