



**El Camino College**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Approved**

**I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**Subject and Number:** History 129  
**Descriptive Title:** History of Los Angeles  
**Course Disciplines:** History  
**Division:** Behavioral and Social Sciences

**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.

**Conditions of Enrollment:**

**Recommended Preparation:** Eligibility for English 1A

<b>Course Length:</b>	<b>X Full Term</b>	<b>Other (Specify number of weeks):</b>
<b>Hours Lecture:</b>	<b>3.00 hours per week</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Hours Laboratory:</b>	<b>0 hours per week</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Course Units:</b>	<b>3.00</b>	

**Grading Method:** Letter  
**Credit Status:** Associate Degree Credit

**Transfer CSU:** X Effective Date: 12/18/2006  
**Transfer UC:** X Effective Date: Fall 2007

**General Education:**

**El Camino College:**  
**2C – Social and Behavioral Sciences – General**  
Term: Fall 2010 Other:

**CSU GE:**  
**D6 - History**  
Term: Fall 2010 Other:

**IGETC:**  
**4F - History**  
Term: Fall 2010 Other:

## II. OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

### A. COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (The course student learning outcomes are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each. Student learning outcomes are not subject to review, revision or approval by the College Curriculum Committee)

#### 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.

The above SLOs were the most recent available SLOs at the time of course review. For the most current SLO statements, visit the El Camino College SLO webpage at <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/slo/>.

### B. Course Student Learning Objectives (The major learning objective for students enrolled in this course are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each)

1. Assess the significance of the environment and geographical location in the development of Los Angeles.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
2. Compare and contrast the motives of the Gabrielino Indians and the Spanish for settling in the Los Angeles Basin and discuss each group's interaction with the natural environment.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
3. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Spanish Mission and Mexican Rancho systems and analyze the impact of these institutions on the Gabrielino Indians and the city of Los Angeles.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
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.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
5. Discuss ways in which city "boosters" attracted newcomers to Los Angeles in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
6. Evaluate the economic growth of Los Angeles in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and its impact on the development of the urban infrastructure.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
7. 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.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
8. Evaluate the cause and effects of social movements (women, labor, radical, reform) in Los Angeles and the conservative resistance of the economic and political elite.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers

9. 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.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
10. 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.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
11. Compare the glowing portrayal of Los Angeles created by boosters at the turn of the century with the apocalyptic, noir vision that emerged in film and literature in the mid-twentieth century.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
12. Trace the relationship between the Los Angeles economy and military spending by the federal government during World War II, the Cold War, and post-Cold War periods.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
13. Explain the explosive growth of suburbs during the postwar period.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
14. Determine the extent to which urban growth in Los Angeles was guided by urban and community planning.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
15. Assess the role of Mexican Americans, African Americans and Asian Americans in the social, political and economic life of the city during the second half of the twentieth century.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
16. 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.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
17. Assess the institutional response to major issues (crime, traffic, education, drought) in the late twentieth century and how residents tried to address these problems.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers
18. Identify and analyze critical issues facing Los Angeles in the twenty-first century.
  - Other (specify)
  - Essay exams, reading reports, term or other papers

**III. OUTLINE OF SUBJECT MATTER (Topics are detailed enough to enable a qualified instructor to determine the major areas that should be covered as well as ensure consistency from instructor to instructor and semester to semester.)**

<b>Lecture or Lab</b>	<b>Approximate Hours</b>	<b>Topic Number</b>	<b>Major Topic</b>
Lecture	2	I	Introduction and Los Angeles Historiography
Lecture	12	II	<p>Early Settlement and Development</p> <p>A. Geography and the Environment</p> <p>B. The Gabrielino Indians</p> <p>C. Spanish Exploration and Settlement, 1542-1821: The Pueblo at Los Angeles</p> <p>D. The Spanish Mission System - San Gabriel Mission</p> <p>E. The Mexican Era, 1821-1848</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. California's Relationship with the Gabrielino Indians</li> <li>2. The Rancho Economy</li> <li>3. Land Grants in Los Angeles</li> <li>4. The Evolving Social Condition of Women</li> <li>5. The Mexican American War, 1846-1848</li> </ol> <p>F. United States: Early Growth and Development, 1848-1890s</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. United States Settlement, 1850s -1870s and Early Migration to Los Angeles</li> <li>2. Demise of the Pastoral Economy</li> <li>3. Nativism and Racism (Chinatown Massacre, 1871)</li> <li>4. Boosterism and Urban Growth, Late 1800s - Selling of Los Angeles</li> <li>5. Economic Growth (Oil, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Real Estate)</li> <li>6. Building the Infrastructure (Harbor, Transportation, Public Works)</li> </ol>
Lecture	5	III	<p>The Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century</p> <p>A. Midwestern Migrants and Values</p> <p>B. Residential Architecture</p> <p>C. Bringing of Water to Los Angeles</p> <p>D. Political Corruption and Progressive Reform</p> <p>E. Radicalism, the Labor Movement, and Conservatism</p>
Lecture	3	IV	<p>The 1920s</p> <p>A. Boosterism and Urban Growth</p> <p>B. The Expanding Economy</p> <p>C. Mexican Immigration</p> <p>D. Hollywood and the Film Industry</p>
Lecture	4	V	<p>The Great Depression</p> <p>A. Poverty and the Local Response</p> <p>B. Unions: Opposition and Growth</p> <p>C. The New Deal</p>
Lecture	4	VI	<p>Noir and Apocalyptic Visions of Los Angeles in Film and Literature</p> <p>A. The Big Sleep and Depression-Era Detective Novels</p> <p>B. Blade Runner and Apocalyptic Films of the Late Twentieth Century</p>

Lecture	4	VII	World War II A. The Military Presence B. Industrial Expansion: Aircraft Industry and Ship-Building C. Racism and Rioting 1. Japanese Internment 2. Zoot Suit Riots
Lecture	5	VIII	Postwar Period 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 D. Disneyland
Lecture	9	IX	Immigration, Migration and Community-Building in the Twentieth Century A. Borderlands and Cultural Exchange B. Immigrant Labor C. African Americans 1. The Great Migration: Perceptions and Realities 2. Culture and Music 3. The 1965 and 1992 Riots 4. Politics and the Bradley Coalition D. Immigration Since 1965
Lecture	3	X	The Late Twentieth Century A. The Environment 1. Earthquakes, Floods, Fires, and Droughts B. The Economy: Booms and Busts 1. Stagflation and the Energy Crisis C. Politics D. Crime, Violence and the Los Angeles Police Department 1. Urban Gangs
Lecture	3	XI	The Future of Los Angeles A. Demographics B. Housing C. Economy and Culture
<b>Total Lecture Hours</b>		54	
<b>Total Laboratory Hours</b>		0	
<b>Total Hours</b>		54	

#### **IV. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION AND SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS**

##### **A. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Substantial writing assignments

##### **B. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENT USING PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Read the introduction and chapters one through three in William Deverell and Greg Hise's book, *Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles*. 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.

##### **C. COLLEGE-LEVEL CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS:**

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 *Becoming Mexican American* write a five- to seven-page essay analyzing whether Sanchez would agree or disagree with Waldinger's statement. Support your position using evidence from Sanchez and other course materials.
2. After reading Raymond Chandler's novel, *The Big Sleep*, and viewing the film, *Double Indemnity*, 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, *Ecology of Fear* assess the historical accuracy of that depiction.

##### **D. OTHER TYPICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION METHODS:**

Essay exams  
Objective Exams  
Reading reports  
Written homework  
Term or other papers

#### **V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

Discussion  
Field trips  
Group Activities  
Lecture  
Multimedia presentations

**Note: In compliance with Board Policies 1600 and 3410, Title 5 California Code of Regulations, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, instruction delivery shall provide access, full inclusion, and effective communication for students with disabilities.**

**VI. WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS**

- Study
- Answer questions
- Required reading
- Written work
- Other (specify)
- Historical site visit

**Estimated Independent Study Hours per Week: 6**

**VII. TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

**A. UP-TO-DATE REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS**

William Deverell and Greg Hise. Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006.

Discipline Standard

William Deverell and Greg Hise. A Companion to Los Angeles. Wiley Blackwell, 2010.

Discipline Standard

George Sanchez. Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Los Angeles, 1900-1945. Oxford Press, 1995

Discipline Standard

**B. ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOKS**

**C. REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

Mark Wild. Street Meeting: Multiethnic Neighborhoods in Early Twentieth Century Los Angeles, UC Press, 2005

Raymond Chandler. The Big Sleep, Vintage Books, 1992

**D. OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

**VIII. CONDITIONS OF ENROLLMENT**

**A. Requisites (Course and Non-Course Prerequisites and Corequisites)**

Requisites	Category and Justification
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**B. Requisite Skills**

Requisite Skills
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**C. Recommended Preparations (Course and Non-Course)**

Recommended Preparation	Category and Justification
Non-Course Recommended Preparation Eligibility for English 1A	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.

**D. Recommended Skills**

<b>Recommended Skills</b>
A student needs to have good reading skills to understand and interpret information provided in their textbooks. In addition, writing is required for essay questions and papers assigned. ENGL A - Read and apply critical thinking skills to college-level expository prose for the purposes of writing and discussion. ENGL 84 – 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. ENGL A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques. ENGL 84 - Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.

**E. Enrollment Limitations**

<b>Enrollment Limitations and Category</b>	<b>Enrollment Limitations Impact</b>
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**Course created by Christina Gold on 10/01/2006.**

**BOARD APPROVAL DATE:**

**LAST BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 06/17/2019**

**Last Reviewed and/or Revised by: John Baranski**

**DATE: 4/1/2019**