

ENGL A156: CALIFORNIA LITERATURE

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/02/2020
Top Code	150300 - Comparative Literature
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3 Arts and Humanities 3A Theory (OC1)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3B Humanities (OSC2)
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 3B Humanities (3B)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 3B Humanities (3B)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU C2 Humanities (C2)

Course Description

Read, analyze, and write on important texts of California Literature. Explore the historical, cultural, philosophical, and aesthetic implications of representative works. Formulate and produce written analyses of assigned works. Enrollment Limitation: ENGL A156H; students who complete ENGL A156 may not enroll in or receive credit for ENGL A156H. ADVISORY: ENGL C1000. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Explain significant historical, philosophical, cultural, and aesthetic implications of representative works of California literature, including defining traits and major themes.

Course Objectives

- 1. Read and analyze a range of California literature including all genres: oral narrative, poetry, essay, short story, novel, and drama.
- 2. Identify and examine through writing and discussion the philosophical, cultural, mythic, religious, and/or historical elements representative of California literature.
- 3. Recognize and interpret the literary devices and writing styles evident in individual texts of California writers.
- 4. Assess how specific literary elements work to form a larger perspective of the California consciousness.
- 5. Examine the influence of different gender, economic, cultural, racial, and/or ethnic groups on California literature.

- 6. Recognize how individual works of California literature reflect and comment on moral, social, and aesthetic issues.
- 7. Apply close literary analysis to individual works of California Literature.
- 8. Apply critical thinking skills through oral and written communication.

Lecture Content

Introduction to geographic, historical, and linguistic background of California. Examine Native American oral literature. Analyze the story telling tradition of the oral narrative. Examine the use allegory and symbolism. Recognize the myths and cultures of the indigenous peoples of California. Explain the influence of native cultures on European settlers. Some possible texts may include: Cahto Myth of Creation Karuk A Trip to Indian Heaven Paiute Ghost Dance Song Recognize the early Spanish influence on culture and writing. Some possible texts may include: Excerpt from Palou s biography of Father Serra Thomas Sanchez s Rabbit Boss Examine the American migration west and the idea of Manifest Destiny. Some possible texts may include: Richard Henry Dana s Two Years Before the Mast Dame Shirley s Stories of the Gold Rush Analyze the development of the short story in California. Examine specific literary devices that comprise the short story including plot, setting, themes, characters, imagery, crisis, epiphany, and metaphor. Recognize the social value or meaning included within the short story. Identify the various types or conventions of the short story. Some possible texts may include: Mark Twain s Jumping Frog of Calaveras County Bret Harte s The Outcasts of Poker Flats Ambrose Bierce s The Damned Thing Charlotte Perkins Gilman s The Yellow Wallpaper Raymond Carver s A Small, Good Thing John Fante s The Road To Los Ange les Identify the aspects of regionalism and naturalism that influence the consciousness of California. Examine the influence of geography and natural landscape on the literature. Recognize the relationship between the natural world and the civilized world. Examine the influence of the Naturalism and Realism on California writers. Some texts may include: Robert Louis Stevenson s The Sea Fogs Mary Austin s Nurlings of the Sky John Muir s A Wind-Storm in the Forest Frank Norris s McTeague Jack London s To Build A Fire Joan Didion s The Santa Ana Analyze one John Steinbeck novel. Examine specific literary devices that comprise the novel including plot, setting, themes, characters, imagery, crisis, epiphany, and metaphor. Recognize the social value or meaning included within the novel. Identify the various types or conventions of the novel. Some possible texts may include: Cannery Row Of Mice and Men Analyze and discuss a variety of California ethnic writers. African-American writers such as Ishmial Reed. Asian-American writers such as Jeanne Wakatusuki Houston, Amy Tan, and Maxine Hong Kingston. Latino writers such as Richard Rodriguez and Barry Lopez. Analyze the poetry of a variety of California writers. Examine the literary devices that comprise the poem including form, rhyme, meter, meaning, imagery, and diction. Some possible poets may include: Allen Ginsberg Gary Snyder Ray Bradbury Robinson Jeffers Jack Kerouac Charles Bukowski Evaluate the influence of urban life on California writers. Some texts may include: Nathaniel West s The Day of the Locust John Fante s The Road to Los Angeles

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)

Instructional Techniques

Lectures and application of ideas, discussion, instructor feedback on written papers and discussion, peer feedback.

Row, latest ed. New York: Penguin, 1993 Rationale: - 4. Required West, Nathaniel. *The Day of the Locust* and *The Dream of Balsa Snell*, latest ed. New York: Penguin Classics, 2000 Rationale: -

Reading Assignments

Reading Assignments: Approximately 2-4 hours per week, approximately 32-54 hours total per semester. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned reading which includes but is not limited to the literature about California and by authors associated with California--works include but are not limited to novels, short stories, poetry, and drama as well as secondary sources on the literature. Works from other "regional" writers may be used for comparative purposes.

Writing Assignments

Writing: Approximately 2-4 hours/ 32-54 hours per semester. Write a minimum of 3000 words (15 pages, 12 pt. double-spaced typed) about California literature: (a) a minimum of 2000 words (10 pages) of the writing must be in the form of analytical essays, (b) the other writings may be in the form of tests requiring primarily short and/or long essay responses, journal writings, creative modeling of the literature, written notes outlining oral presentations, or other types of writings that demonstrate an understanding of the literature.

Out-of-class Assignments

Out-of-Class Assignments: Approximately, 2-4 hours per week for a total 32-54 hours per semester. The writing assignments for this class are mostly completed out of class and are listed under "Writing Assignments." Write a minimum of 3000 words (15 pages, 12 pt. double-spaced typed) about California Literature literature: (a) a minimum of 2000 words (10 pages) of the writing must be in the form of analytical essays, (b) the other writings may be in the form of tests requiring primarily short and/or long essay responses, journal writings, creative modeling of the literature, written notes outlining oral presentations, written scripts for film/video presentations, or other types of writings that demonstrate an understanding of the literature. (See below)

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Two critical papers
Journal writings
Two examinations including short answer, identification, and essay questions
Individual project and classroom presentation on unique topics
Quizzes
In-class writings

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Write a minimum of 3000 words (15 pages, 12 pt. double-spaced typed) about California literature: (a) a minimum of 2000 words (10 pages) of the writing must be in the form of analytical essays, (b) the other writings may be in the form of tests requiring primarily short and/or long essay responses, journal writings, creative modeling of the literature, written notes outlining oral presentations, or other types of writings that demonstrate an understanding of the literature.

Eligible Disciplines

English: Master's degree in English, literature, comparative literature, or composition OR bachelor's degree in any of the above AND master's degree in linguistics, TESL, speech, education with a specialization in reading, creative writing, or journalism OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Didion, Joan. *Where I Was From*, latest ed. New York: Vintage, 2004 Rationale: - 2. Required Norris, Frank. *McTeague*, latest ed. Signet Classics, 2003 Rationale: - 3. Required Steinbeck, John. *Cannery*