

California History for Teachers

SOCS 137

Spring 2026 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/21/2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Prof. Rouse

Email: Wendy.Rouse@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment via zoom Class Time/Location: DMH 163

Section 1: M/W 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Course Description and Requisites

Interdisciplinary course to prepare future teachers to teach California history from a wide range of social science perspectives. Includes the diverse history of California's people, politics, and cultures and their impact on the nation and the world. Create and implement teaching strategies for use in classrooms.

Notes: Not acceptable for Economics majors, except double majors; acceptable for Economics minors.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

Throughout this course you will be engaged in a variety of activities designed to teach you how to teach California history. Follow these simple guidelines for success in the class and become an awesome educator:

Fully participate in each class session and take notes.

Complete the workshops and reflection assignments.

Ask questions for clarification.

Program Information

Social Sciences Teacher Preparation Program Learning Outcomes

PLO 1 The major will provide students with the opportunity to learn and apply content knowledge, discipline-specific analysis skills, and pedagogical methods and theories that underlie the K-12 social science curriculum.

PLO 2 The major will prepare prospective teachers to analyze complex discipline-based issues especially as they relate to the theory and practice of teaching social science. Students will learn to synthesize information from multiple sources and perspectives and communicate this knowledge effectively in a variety of oral and written formats.

PLO 3 The major will equip students with the necessary knowledge to use appropriate technologies especially as they relate to K-12 social science teaching.

PLO 4 The major will provide students with the essential understanding, knowledge and appreciation of diverse perspectives and contributions by and about diverse groups.

PLO 5 The major provides prospective teachers with planned, structured field experiences in classrooms; the field experiences are linked to coursework and give breadth of experience with diverse populations.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Students will learn about California's diverse history exploring the interactions between people of different social, cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in California and the impact of their arrival on California's geographic and environmental landscape.

CLO 2: Students will examine the historical, social, political, and economic processes that have contributed to structured inequalities in California and social actions leading to greater equality and social justice.

CLO 3: Students will learn how to read, write and think like historians. More specifically, students will learn to analyze primary documents using an inquiry approach, corroborate and weigh historical evidence, and construct strong evidence-based arguments.

CLO 4: Students will become proficient in applying historical thinking skills in their own future classrooms in order to successfully teach students of all ages to become active, engaged citizens of our democratic society.

CLO 5: Students will learn how to create and implement a lesson plan aligned to California StateHistory/Social Science Content Standards and Common Core State Standards.

CLO 6: Students will learn a variety of instructional strategies to engage their own future students in the active-learning process.

Course Materials

Social Studies Alive. California's Compromise. Teacher's Curriculum Institute. 2018. 978-1-58371-482-9. Available on Canvas course page or for purchase at <https://shop.teachctci.com/SSA-Californias-Promise-2018-Student-Edition>

Starr, Kevin. California: A History. Modern Library, 2007.

"History-Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve." California State Board of Education, October
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>

"History-Social Science Framework For California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve." Sacramento: California Department of Education, 2017. Chapter 7. Grade Four, California a Changing State. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/documents/hssfwchapter7.pdf>

"Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects for California Public Schools Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve." California State Board of Education, August 2010, Updated March 2013. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/index.asp> 1998.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reflections on Online Lectures 400 points (29%)

Online Canvas Assignments (CLO 1-6) 250 points (18%)

DBQs (CLO 1-4) 100 points (7%)

Field Trips (CLO 1, 2, 5, 6) 150 points (11%)

Lesson Plan Assignment 1 (CLO 1-6) 100 points (7%)

Lesson Plan Assignment 2 (CLO 1-6) 100 points (7%)

Lesson Plan Assignment 3 (CLO 1-6) 100 points (7%)

Lesson Plan Assignment 4 (CLO 1-6) 100 points (7%)

Lesson Plan Assignment 5 (CLO 1-6) 100 points (7%)

Total Possible Points 1400 points (100%)

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination

The final examination for this course is Lesson Plan Assignment 5 which will be due on Canvas.

✓ Grading Information

The class activities, and assignments 1-5 assigned in this course will help you practice the skills that you need to create your own dynamic lesson plans. Through the Canvas assignments you will study California's unique history and culture. Canvas assignments are also designed to introduce you to a wide variety of technology tools used by K-12 teachers today. Please see the detailed rubrics for each major Lesson Plan assignment on our Canvas course page. You may, and are highly encouraged, to self-assess your own work using these rubrics prior to formally submitting your assignments for grading. Canvas homework assignments are graded based on a complete/incomplete basis.

All assignments are due on or before the due date. Late assignments will be docked 10% (one full letter grade) per day they are late. Please notify me before the due date if you have an emergency or illness that arise preventing you from turning in an assignment.

Grade	Points	Percentage
A plus	970 to 1000	97 to 100%
A	930 to 969	93 to 96%
A minus	900 to 929	90 to 92%
B plus	870 to 899	87 to 89%
B	830 to 869	83 to 86%
B minus	800 to 829	80 to 82%
C plus	770 to 799	77 to 79%
C	730 to 769	73 to 76%
C minus	700 to 729	70 to 72%
D plus	660 to 699	67 to 69%

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments
Mon. Jan. 26	Introductions, Standards, Skills & Common Core	Introductions & Canvas Assignment 1 Reading: CA History/Social Science Framework, Chapter 7 Due Jan. 27
Weds. Jan. 28	Tour California	Canvas Assignment 2 – California Geog. Reading: TCI Chapter 1 Due Jan. 29
Mon. Feb. 2	California Indigenous Nations Part 1	Reading: TCI Chapter 2 & 3
Weds. Feb. 4	California Indigenous Nations Part 2	Canvas Assignment 3 – CA Indigenous People Reading: TCI Chapter 2 & 3 Due Feb. 5
Mon. Feb. 9	Teacher Talk 1: Instr. Strategies	Lesson Plan Assignment 1 Due Feb. 10
Weds. Feb. 11	Spanish Missions	Canvas Assignment 4 – Spanish Missions Reading: TCI Chapter 4 Due Feb. 12

Mon. Feb. 16	California Indigenous Nations & Spanish Colonization/DBQ 1	Canvas Assignment 5 – Rethinking the Mission Project Reading: TCI Chapter 5 Due Feb. 17
Weds. Feb. 18	Field Trip 1	Field Trip Assignment 1 Due Feb. 19
Mon. Feb. 23	Teacher Talk 2: Primary Sources	Lesson Plan Assignment 2 Due Feb. 24
Weds. Feb. 25	Mexican California	Canvas Assignment 6 – Mexican CA Reading: TCI Chapter 6 Due Feb. 26
Mon. Mar. 2	Trails West & Settler Colonialism	Canvas Assignment 7 – Trails West Reading: TCI Chapter 7 Due Mar. 3
Weds. Mar. 4	Effects of the Gold Rush	Canvas Assignment 8 - Gold Rush Reading: TCI Chapter 7 Due Mar. 5
Mon. Mar. 9	DBQ 2 Teacher Talk 3: Assessments	Lesson Plan Assignment 3 DBQ 2 Due Mar. 10
Weds. Mar. 11	Field Trip 2	Field Trip Assignment 2 Due Mar. 12

Mon. Mar. 16	Transcontinental Railroad	Canvas Assignment 9 – Connecting CA Reading: TCI Chapter 8 Due Mar. 17
Weds. Mar. 18	Urbanization, Industrialization & Immigration in California	Canvas Assignment 10 – Immigration to CA Reading: TCI Chapter 9 Due Mar. 19
Mon. Mar. 23	California Progressives	Canvas Assignment 11 – Progressive CA Reading: TCI Chapter 10 Due Mar. 24
Weds. Mar. 25	Women's Rights and the Suffrage Movement	Canvas Assignment 12 – Suffragists Due Mar. 26
Mon. Apr. 6	Hetch-Hetchy Debate and Environmental Issues in CA History	Canvas Assignment 13 – California EEI Due Apr. 7
Weds. Apr. 8	DBQ 3 Teacher Talk 4: Lesson Planning	DBQ 3 Due Apr. 9
Mon. Apr. 13	WWII on the Home Front	Canvas Assignment 13 – Locating Resources, Reading: TCI Chapter 11 Due Apr. 14
Weds. Apr. 15	Twentieth Century Stars	Canvas Assignment 14 Due Apr. 16

Mon. Apr. 20	Field Trip 3	Reading: TCI Chapters 14 & 15 Field Trip Assignment 3 Due Apr. 21
Weds. Apr. 22	DBQ 4	Reading: TCI Chapters 14 & 15 DBQ 4 Due Due Apr. 23
Mon. Apr. 27	Movements for Social Justice	Lesson Plan Assignment 4 Due Apr. 30
Weds. Apr. 29	Legends & Lore	
Mon. May 4	Teacher Talk 5 - The Teacher's View	Lesson Plan Assignment 5 Due Due May 5
Weds. May 6	California Dreamin'	Canvas Assignment 15- Take Aways Due May 7
Mon. May 11	Sandbox Day	