

Syllabus

California: Imagination and Place

English 102: Composition II

Spring 2008

Sections: .032, .034

Frandsen Humanities 106

M. W. 1-2:15, 2:30-3:45

David Stentiford

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Office Hours: M. 3:45-4:45, W. 3:45-4:45

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Description

California: insert the first thing that comes to mind here_____. (Was it oranges, the High Sierra, Hollywood, or words like *bella* or *gnarly*?) This course takes up the following questions: What do we mean by *California*? How has California been figured in the American imagination? And, how are ideas of place both meaningful and limiting? In our approach to these questions, we'll explore California in its relation to other regions—specifically, how it shapes and is shaped by the West, the Nation, and the Pacific Rim.

Objectives

- Hone the writing practice
- Develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills
- Build strategies for creating, refining, and approaching research questions
- Gain facility with the tools of research
- Learn the conventions and craft of a well reasoned argument

Texts & Materials

- California Dreams and Realities*, Sonia Maasik & Jack Solomon. Third Edition
- The Curious Researcher*, Bruce Ballenger. Fifth Edition
- A single-subject notebook dedicated to this class only

Grading

- Participation 20%
- The Research Notebook 10%
- Assignments 30%
- The Research Essay 30%
- Research Presentation 10%

Student Work

The Research Notebook: Throughout the semester you will be asked to do several informal writing assignments. These include activities in *The Curious Researcher*, reading responses, creative responses, observation notes, and research notes. The audience

for this notebook is you, so think of this as a work space to keep track of your ideas. Periodically I will check in with you through these notebooks.

Assignments: A variety of shorter pieces of writing, due in the beginning of the semester, will serve as steps toward your research essay. These include a rhetorical analysis of a song, an exploratory essay, a research proposal, and two annotated bibliographies.

The Research Essay: This piece of writing is the main focus of your work this spring. The research essay can have numerous different shapes (there is not a singular method to crafting this essay), so we'll explore numerous approaches to this species of writing. This is your project to go where you want with. Basically, you will be developing a paper (in the range of ten pages) that blends your own voice into your research—this is more than a report. Also, you will be asked to take at least one draft of this assignment to the Writing Center.

Research Presentation: At the end of the semester, we will come together to present and discuss everyone's work in a symposium. This is an opportunity to learn collectively about the manifold of ideas that contribute to our understanding of California. In this way, we will all be authorities on the subject. The presentation is also a chance for you to present your work in a new format (you do not simply have to read your paper aloud to the class). Again, you will have the authority to design this assignment in the way you imagine.

Formatting & Late Work: All late assignments may be penalized 5% for each day past due. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Please use standard margins, double-spacing, and pagination. Set type in 12 point Times or Times New Roman font.

Attendance

After three unexcused absences I may reduce your final grade by 5% per additional absence. For absences to be excused, please provide documentation and discuss the situation with me as soon as possible.

Plagiarism

Acts of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, and you will either fail the assignment or the course. If you have questions about plagiarism please feel free to speak with me and consult the *UNR Student Handbook*.

Accommodations

I encourage all students who may need accommodations to have a conversation with me and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible. The DRC is located in the Thompson Building, suite 101. Please be assured I am committed to creating a positive learning environment for all students in this class.

**Introductions
Week 1**

W. January, 23
Introductions

**Reading, Noting, and Placing California
Week 2**

M. January, 28
Ballenger, 137-154
"Indian Beginnings" *Handout

W. January, 30
Maasik & Solomon, 6-17
Barry Lopez, "The American Geographies" *Handout

**Approaching California
Week 3**

M. February, 4
Massik & Solomon, Ch 1. "California Dreaming" 19-53

W. February, 6
Massik & Solomon, Ch 1. "California Dreaming" 54-76

Week 4

M. February, 11
Massik & Solomon Ch 2. "The Great Migration" 81-115
Due: The Rhetorical Analysis of a Song (Two Pages)

W. February, 13
Massik & Solomon, Ch 2. "The Great Migration" 116-148

Week 5

M. February, 18
--Holliday--

W. February, 20
Massik & Solomon, Ch 4. "The Geography of Desire" 229-263 + 308-311
Due: The Exploratory Essay (Two Pages)

**The Research Process
Week 6**

M. February, 25
Ballenger, 27-57

W. February, 27
Ballenger, 57-62
Due: Research Proposal

Week 7

M. March, 3
Ballenger, 63-114

W. March, 5
Due: Annotated Bibliography #1

Week 8

M. March, 10
Ballenger, 115-164

W. March, 12
Due: Annotated Bibliography #2

Week 9

M. March, 17
Ballenger, 165-189

W. March, 19
Ballenger, 189-211

Week 10

M. March, 24 Spring Break

W. March, 26 Spring Break

Week 11

M. March, 31
Due: First draft of the research essay (10 Pages)

W. April, 2
Due: Second draft of the research essay (10 Pages)

Week 12
Shaping California

M. April, 7
Ballenger, 213-246

W. April, 9
Massik & Solomon, Selections from Ch. 5 "Exporting Culture"

Week 13

M. April, 14
Massik & Solomon, Selections from Ch. 5 "Exporting Culture"

W. April, 16
Massik & Solomon, Selections from Ch. 6 "(Mis) Managing California"

Week 14

M. April, 21

Due: Third draft of the research essay (10 Pages)

W. April, 23

Massik & Solomon, Selections from Ch. 6 "(Mis) Managing California"

Research Symposium

Week 15

M. April, 28

Symposium Day 1

W. April, 30

Symposium Day 2

Week 16

M. May, 5

Symposium Day 3

Exam Week

M. May, 12 Exam Day

Symposium Day 4

Section .032, 12—2pm

Section .034, 2:15—4:15pm
