CW R1A: California History and Culture

Ben Spanbock

**Course Timeline**

Pre-colonial Period:

**~9000 BCE**- Radiocarbon dating estimate of bone from the “Arlington Springs Man” on Santa Rosa Island. The Arlington Springs Man’s bone is some of the oldest identified human skeletal remains in North America. Climate and geography were substantially different than today (Channel Islands connected to mainland, cold winters, mammoths, etc).

**Native American Myths** (recorded between 1880 and 1950)

\*\*Colonial Era Native American distributions date from anywhere between 1500 to 1800\*\* (see map on website)

Colonial Period:

**1562-** First printed appearance of the name “California.” Applied on a Spanish map to the Northwestern part of the “New World,” and probably adapted from a popular Spanish novel Las Sergas Esplandián of a mythical island ruled by Queen Calafia, inhabited by warrior women and mythical creatures, and full of gold).

**~1720-1820**- California Missions

Mexican National Period:

**1821**- Mexican Independence from Spain

**1840-** R.H.Dana Jr.*Two Years Before the Mast* Published (Trip=1836)

**1847**- Brief Formation of Bear Flag Republic (Based in Sonoma)

**1848**- Signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (Conclusion of Mexican American War) California becomes U.S. Territory

**1850**- California becomes a U.S. state

Early-Modern Period:

**1860**- Walt Whitman “Facing West From CA shores”

**1869-** Transcontinental Railroad connects SF to the rest of the U.S.

**1876**- Southern California Transcontinental Railroad built

**1884**- H.H. Jackson, *Ramona*

**1887**- SF Cable Car system, Golden Gate Park built

**1899-** Frank Norris, *McTeague*

**1899**- Rudyard Kipling, “Sea to Sea”

**1901-** SF called “Paris of the West”

**1902-** Mary Austin *Stories From the Country of Lost Borders*

**1906**- SF Earthquake

Modern Period:

**1913**- Completion of LA Aqueduct

**1915-** World’s Fair SF (celebrating the Panama Canal and SF’s complete reconstruction and influence over the Pacific

**1915**- Incorporation of San Fernando Valley triples the size of LA (annexations over the next 15 years would double the size again by 1934)

**1920s-** Period of rapid expansion. Start of the “Golden Age” of Hollywood film

**1930s-** Great Depression. Rise of unions as important political agents

**1939**- John Steinbeck *The Grapes of Wrath*

**1940s**- WWII, Japanese-American Internment

**1950s-** Economic boom after WWII leads to unprecedented industrial and structural development in CA. McCarthyism leads to a “Red Scare” (conservative backlash against social parties and labor reform as Anti-American). Music/art/literature/film develops a critical position against industrialization conservative values

**1953-** Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day bay Day* (Includes: “San Francisco,” “Berkeley,” and “California”)

**1956**- First silicon semiconductor developed in Mountain View (birth of “Silicon Valley”)

**1957-** Henry Miller, *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymous Bosch* “In the Beginning”

**1960-** Jack Kerouac, *The Railroad Earth*

**1961**- Joan Didion, *Notes from a Native Daughter*

Post-Modern Period:

**1960s**- Student Movement, Vietnam Era sparks protests nationwide, coinciding with Women’s Rights and Civil Rights movements. Beginning of the “Hippie” Era in SF

**1965**- Mario Savio, “Why it Happened in Berkeley”

**1965-** First Grateful Dead shows in SF

**1966**- Cásar Chávez/UFW 340 mile March from Delano to Sacramento

**1968-** Tom Wolfe, “The Cops and Robbers Game”

**1969-** Sharon Tate murdered

**1970s and 1980s** Environmental Movement, Gay Rights movement

**1974**- *Chinatown* (Dir. Roman Polanski)

**1978**- David Gaines forms the “Mono Lake Committee”

**1978**- Harvey Milk assassinated in SF

**1983-** Gretel Erlich “Heart Mountain”

**1984**- David Thompson “Driving in a Back Projection”

**1988-** Ishmael Reed, “My Oakland, There is a There There”

**1989-** Maxine Hong Kingston, *Tripmaster Monkey* “Twisters and Shouters”

**1990s and 2000s** Market Crash, California Debt Crisis,Occupy Movement starts at UCSC

**1994**- *Pulp Fiction* (Dir. Quentin Tarentino)

**1996**- Tupac Shakur shot and killed leaving the MGM Grand in Las Vegas

**1997-** Karen TeiYamashita*Tropic of Orange*

**2005-** Louis J. Rodriguez *Always Running*

**2011**- *Bombay Beach* (Dir. Alma Har’el)

**2013**-*Frituvale Station* (Dir. Ryan Coogler)