

# ENGL 49: CALIFORNIA LITERATURE: GOLDEN STATE CULTURES, GEOGRAPHIES & HISTORIES

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
<b>Units:</b>	4
<b>Hours:</b>	4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)
<b>Advisory:</b>	Demonstrated proficiency in English by placement via multiple measures OR through an equivalent placement process OR completion of ESLL 125 & ESLL 249.
<b>Degree &amp; Credit Status:</b>	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
<b>Foothill GE:</b>	Area I: Humanities
<b>Transferable:</b>	CSU/UC
<b>Grade Type:</b>	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
<b>Repeatability:</b>	Not Repeatable

## Description

Introduction to literature written by and about Californians, from pre-contact California Indian creation myths to contemporary poetry, fiction, drama, essays, and autobiographical narratives. Emphasis on important literary contributions by authors from a range of ethnic, socio-economic, and regional communities representing the cultural complexity of California. Emphasis on the influence of ecology, geography, political and social developments, ethnicity, gender, and class on the formation of distinctive yet interconnected California cultures, as represented in literary works.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- identify how social, cultural, historical, and political contexts shape the literature of California.
- analyze the specific contributions and special achievements of individual California authors within the context of the communities and cultural groups they represent.
- interpret how California authors and literary works reflect the themes, motifs, conventions, and movements that have characterized the broader American literary landscape.
- understand literary works' representation of distinctive histories and cultures of regions and sub-regions within California.
- recognize and apply basic literary terminologies, theories, and genres appropriate to an introductory college-level discussion of literature.

## Course Content

- Social, cultural, historical, and political contexts that have shaped the literature of California, such as:
  - Early California history, including Native American experience, Spanish and Mexican colonial empires in California, and annexation by the United States

- The Gold Rush era
  - The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl migration
  - World War II, Japanese-American internment, and the second Great Migration
  - Urbanization, suburbanization, and immigration in postwar California
  - The Civil Rights movement, the Free Speech movement, and postwar counterculture
  - The ascension of Silicon Valley and the Great Recession
- California authors within the context of the communities and cultural groups they represent, such as:
    - Native American authors in California
    - Latino/Latina authors in California
    - African American authors in California
    - Asian American authors in California
    - Anglo-American authors in California
    - Gay and lesbian authors in California
    - Women authors in California
    - Low-income and working-class authors in California
  - Themes and movements in American literature reflected by the work of California authors, such as:
    - Immigrant narratives
    - Nature writing
    - The frontier myth
    - Modernist literary movements emerging in the 1920s and 1930s
    - The Beat Generation of the 1950s
    - Postmodernist literary experimentation from the 1960s to the 2000s
  - Literary works' representation of distinctive histories and cultures of regions and sub-regions within California, such as:
    - The San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coast
    - The Great Central Valley
    - The Sierra Nevada
    - Los Angeles and the Inland Empire
    - The California-Mexico Borderlands
  - Relevant literary terminologies and analytic techniques
    - New Historicist, Marxist, Ecocritical, and/or other analytical tools for literary interpretation
    - Denotative and connotative meaning of language
    - Figurative and symbolic language in relation to central theme(s) of the work

## Lab Content

Not applicable.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- When taught on campus, no special facility or equipment needed.
- When taught via Foothill Global Access, ongoing access to computer with email and basic software capabilities.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

- Quizzes (comprehension, basic interpretation)
- Participation through class discussion
- In-class essays and exams, including final exam (analysis, argument, synthesis)
- Formal papers (analysis, argument, synthesis)
- Preparing presentations and leading discussion groups
- Critical reading journals

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture presentations and classroom discussions using the language of literary criticism and analysis.

- B. Reading of a wide range of California literature, focusing on geographical, historical and cultural contexts.  
C. Group presentations on California authors and their works.

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

### Anthologies:

Locascio, Lisa, ed. Golden State 2017: The Best New Writing from California. Outpost19, 2017.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee, William E. Justice, and James Quay, eds. California Uncovered: Stories for the 21st Century. Heyday Books, 2004.

Gilbar, Steven, ed. Natural State: A Literary Anthology of California Nature Writing. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Haslam, Gerald, ed. Many Californias: Literature from the Golden State. 2nd ed. Reno and Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 1999.

Heide, Rick, ed. Under the Fifth Sun: Latino Literature from California. Heyday Books, 2002.

Hicks, Jack, James D. Houston, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Al Young, eds. The Literature of California Volume 1: Native American Beginnings to 1945. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

Nanda, Aparajita, ed. Black California: A Literary Anthology. Heyday Books, 2011.

### Individual texts:

Austin, Mary. The Land of Little Rain.

Boyle, T.C. The Tortilla Curtain.

Carver, Raymond. Cathedral.

Chabon, Michael. Telegraph Avenue.

Chandler, Raymond. The Big Sleep.

Cleaver, Eldridge. Soul On Ice.

Coleman, Wanda. Heavy Daughter Blues: Poems and Stories 1968-1986.

Dick, Phillip K. A Scanner Darkly.

Didion, Joan. Play It As It Lays: A Novel.

Fante, John. Ask the Dust.

Ferlinghetti, Lawrence. Coney Island of the Mind.

Hammett, Dashiell. The Maltese Falcon.

Haslam, Gerald. The Other California, Coming of Age in California.

Hong Kingston, Maxine. The Woman Warrior.

Jeffers, Robinson. Selected Poems.

Kerouac, Jack. The Dharma Bums.

Lam, Andrew. Birds of Paradise Lost.

London, Jack. Martin Eden.

Maupin, Armistead. Tales of the City.

Miranda, Deborah. Indian Cartography.

Muir, John. My First Summer in the Sierra.

Norris, Frank. The Octopus: A Story of California.

Pynchon, Thomas. The Crying of Lot 49.

Reed, Ishmael. The Last Days of Louisiana Red.

Sapigao, Janice. Microchips for Millions.

Saroyan, William. The Human Comedy.

Sarris, Greg. Grand Avenue.

Sinclair, Upton. Oil!: A Novel.

Solnit, Rebecca. A Field Guide to Getting Lost, selected essays.

Stegner, Wallace. Angle of Repose, selected essays.

Steinbeck, John. Cannery Row, Tortilla Flat, East of Eden.

Tan, Amy. The Joy Luck Club.

Twain, Mark. "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

Viramontes, Helena. Their Dogs Came With Them, Under the Feet of Jesus.

Vollmann, William T. Whores for Gloria, Riding Towards Everywhere, Imperial.

Waldie, D.J. Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir.

West, Nathaniel. The Day of the Locust.

Although some of these texts are older than the suggested "5 years or newer" standard, they remain seminal texts in this area of study.

## Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

- A. Critical essays
- B. Group presentations
- C. Reading journals and portfolios
- D. Midterm examination
- E. Final examination
- F. Class discussion in large-group and small-group formats

## Discipline(s)

English