Cal History, Spirit, and Traditions

Rhetoric 98/198

Fall 2020

Date and Time: Tuesdays, 5-6

Location: Zoom (ID: calhst)

Course Facilitators: Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu

Sponsoring Professor: Dr. Nadesan Permaul

Contact Information

Mark Maffeo: ucrc.traditions@gmail.com
Wesley Lu: ucrc.outreach@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

You’ve heard it all before: Cal Berkeley is the number one public university in the world, it was the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, the Campanile is the third-tallest bell and clock tower in the world, and of course, no matter how hard you look on the Periodic Table, you won’t find “Stanfordium.” Some of us have found ourselves chanting “Roll on you Bears” from the seats of California Memorial Stadium, changing our trajectory to avoid stepping on a seal on Memorial Glade, and rubbing the 4.0 ball right before that big midterm. Since the moment we’ve stepped on campus, we have all in some way been truly inspired by the University of California, and its prestige has been made known to us daily. This course aims to expand on what you already know about our wonderful University by going deeper into the rich history, remarkable spirit, and spectacular traditions of Cal, spanning from its founding in 1868 to the present after 150 years. We will touch on the evolution of campus culture, the variety of harmonious Cal songs, the legends, the lord, and how our traditions have changed over time. Our hope is that this course will bring you to love and appreciate Cal even more.

For fourteen weeks, we will meet for one hour on Thursdays to learn about a different aspect of the University. The majority of our lectures will feature an expert on the subject at
hand, including professors, alumni, faculty, historians, and Cal fans for life. The course will include a project, a midterm, and a final paper. From “The Play” to the Cal Marching Band, we’ll touch on it all.

**Course Format**

This is a one-unit course that will last for 14 weeks, with one hour of lecture a week. Each lecture will cover a different aspect of the history, spirit, or traditions of the University of California, and will likely feature a speaker with personal experience or expertise on the topic. Students will be expected to attend lecture and give the guest speaker utmost respect. Course assignments will include a short paper, a midterm, a final project, and engaging with speakers during class.

**Grade Distribution**

Attendance and Participation: 30%

Paper: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Final Project: 30%

To clarify, this course is not meant to take up hours of your time completing these assignments. Our hope is that you complete these (brief) assignments in ways that reflect your personality and are enjoyable for you. Have fun!

**Optional but Beneficial Readings (pdfs provided on the BCourses site)**

There is a course reader for this DeCal. It contains:


3. C. Michael Otten, University Authority and the Student: The Berkeley Experience, Chapter 3, pp. 38-61
**Attendance and Participation:** You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. If you’ve met those and have another absence, send an email to callhstdecal@gmail.com within 24 hours of class starting. Being present and following this policy is 20% of your grade. In general, it is courteous to send an email to either facilitator before an absence of any kind.

The remaining 10% of the attendance/participation grade comes from a Community Involvement Assignment. To get this done, you must simply participate in 10 out of 14 brief submission assignments before December 2nd. These assignments will be very easy to do (ex: submit a Cal fun fact), and each person who submits a response that week is eligible for a weekly raffle.

**Paper**

Write a 2-3 page paper talking about your journey to Cal and your experiences at the university. For example, you may want to answer why you chose to attend UC Berkeley, the different opportunities and communities you’ve been given while at Cal, and any positives or negatives of the university you’d like to mention. Keep in mind, this paper could answer none of the questions above and still get an 100%, as we want to promote creativity through the broadness of this prompt.

**Midterm**

Halfway through the term, there will be a midterm based upon the material covered in previous lectures and from readings. The midterm format will be game show-style, with questions pertaining to material learned throughout the semester so far. Students will be required to participate within their team to earn credit on the midterm.

**Final Project**

An end-of-semester project that reflects “Cal Spirit and Tradition.” This project can come in any form; projects in the past have included Cal inspired food creations, essays, documentaries, and even board games. As it’s open-ended, this project will be graded on the effort put into it as well as the creativity of the assignment.
Engaging with speakers during class

Students are expected to be attentive during lectures, and respect the speakers who have generously donated their time to come and speak. This means listening quietly, refraining from laptop and phone usage, and asking questions should they arise.

Key Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should know the history of the University of California, as well as have a basic understanding of its Spirit and traditions. Students should have a broader understanding of the campus’ sports teams, faculty, and student body as a result of taking this class. Everything is connected in this course; speakers come to discuss topics that are directly tested in assignments, and from what we learn from the speakers and our assignments, we are tested in the midterm and final project.

Weekly Class Schedule

Week 1 – 9/1
Speaker(s): Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu
Subject: Info-session: introductions, enrollment, and a general history of UC Berkeley!

Week 2 – 9/8
Speaker(s): Peter Van Houten
Subject: Early History of UC Berkeley

Week 3 – 9/15
Speaker(s): Professor Permaul and Victoria Vera
Subject: The ASUC

Week 4 – 9/22
Speaker(s): Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu
Subject: Assorted Cal-related activities

Week 5 – 9/29
Speaker(s): UC Rally Committee Executive Committee
Subject: The UC Rally Committee

Week 6 – 10/6
Speaker(s): Mal Pacheco
Subject: Oski

Week 7- 10/13- Midterm!

Week 8 – 10/20
Speaker(s): Bart White
Subject: The Stanford Axe
Paper Due

Week 9 – 10/27
Speaker(s): Maya Goehring-Harris
Subject: UDAR and Student Relations

Week 10 – 11/3
Speaker(s): Phil Litts and the Mic Men
Subject: History of Yell Leading and Mic Men

Week 11 – 11/10
Speaker(s): 150w at Berkeley
Subject: Impact of Women at UC Berkeley

Week 12 – 11/17
Speaker(s): Sarah Yi
Subject: Benefits of being a Cal Alumni (Professional and Social)

Week 13 - 11/24
Speaker(s): Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu
Subject: Assorted Cal-related activities

Week 14 – 12/2, Last Week of Instruction
Speaker(s): Guest Speaker
Subject: Undecided
Final Project Due in Class