

Cal History, Spirit, and Traditions

Rhetoric 98/198

Spring 2021

Date and Time: Thursdays, 6-7 **Location:** Zoom (ID: calhst)

Course Facilitators: Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu

Sponsoring Professor: Dr. Nadesan Permaul

Contact Information

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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 lore, 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 13 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:

1. William Warren Ferrier, *Origin and Development of the University of California*, Chapter 28 “The Development After Fifty Years,” pp. 507-540
2. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, *The Abundant Life* “The University,” pp. 149-162 and pp. 175-188
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 calhstdecal@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 7 out of 11 brief submission assignments before April 29th. 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 – 1/28

Speaker(s): Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu

Subject: Info-session: introductions, enrollment, and a general history of UC Berkeley!

Week 2 – 2/4

Speaker(s): Peter Van Houten

Subject: Early History of UC Berkeley

Week 3 – 2/11

Speaker(s): Professor Permaul and Victoria Vera

Subject: The ASUC

Week 4 – 2/18

Speaker(s): Mark Maffeo and Wesley Lu

Subject: Assorted Cal- related activities

Week 5 – 2/25

Speaker(s): UC Rally Committee Executive Committee

Subject: The UC Rally Committee

Week 6 – 3/4

Speaker(s): Mal Pacheco

Subject: Oski

Week 7- 3/11- Midterm!

Week 8 – 3/18

Speaker(s): Bart White

Subject: The Stanford Axe

Paper Due

March 25th- Spring Break

Week 9 – 4/1

Speaker(s): Maya Goehring-Harris

Subject: UDAR and Student Relations

Week 10 – 4/8

Speaker(s): Phil Litts and the Mic Men

Subject: History of Yell Leading and Mic Men

Week 11 – 4/15

Speaker(s): 150w at Berkeley

Subject: Impact of Women at UC Berkeley

Week 12 – 4/22

Speaker(s): Sarah Yi

Subject: Benefits of being a Cal Alumni (Professional and Social)

Week 13 – 4/29, Last Week of Instruction

Speaker(s): Guest Speaker

Subject: Undecided

Final Project Due in Class