### Course Purpose and Description

To confront the past and seek mechanisms of redress what better way to critically engage this work than to look closely at the land on which we stand? Drawing upon the work of the UC Berkeley Truth & Justice Project, this Course will explore the history of the UC and its racial and colonial foundations. Currently, the UC Berkeley’s origins story neglects the realities of its racial and colonial foundations which are rooted in the appropriation of Indigenous lands and looting of Indigenous sacred sites. The Course seeks to engage students in a critical investigation of the origins of the University of California through a settler colonial lens, with the aim of decolonizing the University’s narrative history. Decolonization is a process by which narratives, worldviews, cultures, and institutions, once erased by colonization are returned, respected, and honored. As decolonization, truth, healing, and reconciliation mechanisms gain momentum across the globe, this course will prepare students to engage in thought leadership, impact the future of legal studies, and societal wellbeing. As the Mohatt et al. historical trauma article assigned for the first class provides, “studying narratives of historical trauma can help disentangle the ways in which contemporary actions perpetrate or repair historical wounds.” Thus, we can either ignore and perpetuate past harms, or repair, address, and seek to heal past harms. This course seeks to do the latter.

### Course Learning Goals

The learning goals for the course are substantive and skills based. Students develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills through the development of an individual or group research project. Students will gain an understanding of the intersection between law and the histories of California, the University, and BIPOC+ communities.

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**Please Read Through the Entire Syllabus 😊**

Our learning journey will be centered on respect and reciprocity. I am here to assist you in any way that I can.
The Course utilizes a settler-colonial theoretical framework to analyze the intersections of structural racism, law, and colonialism. This theory posits that if racialized power and privilege in the United States today are rooted in the historic and ongoing colonization of Native North America, dismantling the colonial relationships that still undergird the state is in the interest of not only Indigenous nations and peoples but all racialized and subordinated peoples of color. This framework is the foundation of the course as it seeks to understand Indigenous histories of California; the history and impacts of colonization; and the institutionalization of racism in the law (including the doctrine of discovery, plenary power, slavery, and California genocide). We will learn about the Land Grab Project which served as the initial land and financial base of UC Berkeley, along with the history of academic and scientific racism with a specific focus on the racist historical roots of the Department of Anthropology. We will then move into more contemporary issues of BIPOC+ erasure from history, the selective amnesia in University origin stories, the ongoing human rights violations at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum, and then wrap up with a discussion on current movements toward truth, healing, reconciliation, and reparations and decolonization. By the end of the course students should be able to:

► Demonstrate an understanding of settler-colonialism and decolonization;
► Demonstrate an understanding of how the history of race and colonization are interconnected with the law and their impacts on society today;
► Demonstrate an understanding of how race and colonization impact the narrative story of UC Berkeley;
► Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of resistance and truth, healing, reconciliation, and reparation movements, and decolonization; and
► Apply these learning objectives to research and create a storytelling project about the racial and colonial foundations of California and UC Berkeley with an eye toward decolonization. The projects should aim to challenge the settler-colonial narrative through storytelling and to move from theory into praxis.

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that Berkeley sits on the territory of xučyun (Huichin (Hoo-Choon), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo) speaking Ohlone people. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Muwekma (Muh-wek-muh) Ohlone Tribe and other familial descendants of the Verona Band. We recognize that every member of the Berkeley community has benefitted, and continues to benefit, from the use and occupation of this land since the institution’s founding in 1868. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university’s relationship to Native peoples. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold the University of California, Berkeley more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Wellness is a Collective Priority

Life, and the content of this course, can be overwhelming at times, but know that you are not alone if you’re feeling stressed. For many of us, living with and discussing systems of oppression may cause additional stress. You deserve respect, and are encouraged to practice self-care so that you can remain focused and engaged during class. Please feel free to excuse yourself from class for your wellbeing as needed. If our course material
relates to or may trigger distress for you, please email me to schedule at time to meet ahead of the class so I may share slides or otherwise accommodate your personal circumstances. Please reach out for support if you need it. To find resources related to health and well-being you can visit University Health Services, you can find resources for academic support here, or you can find resources to meet your basic needs (food and housing) here.

Grading & Participation

Your contributions via critical analysis and feedback during class discussion are integral to our success as a class. Lecture and Section participation are forty percent (40%) of the course grade and students are expected to prepare, attend, and participate in each class. Work that is late (that is, without an extension in writing from the instructors in advance) will be penalized 3% per day it is unexcused. While I strive to extend graciousness and flexibility in our coursework together, the reality is that timeliness shows respect for one another’s time which builds trust by and between us, if you anticipate that you will not make a deadline or class, please contact the GSI Peyton Provenzano via bCourses to request an extension or to otherwise make up unexcused absences.

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<th>Assignment</th>
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| Lecture Attendance & Participation      | To engender critical thinking skills students must engage with the material; regularly attend class; and actively participate in discussion and dialogue. Students will be assessed on attendance and participation.  
  • This includes attending and/or participating in lecture or posting digesting, summarizing, critiquing, and analyzing the readings on the bCourses discussion board (which allows for students who may not feel comfortable speaking in class to receive equivalent credit).  
  • This translates to a 0-1 scale for each lecture.                                                                                                                   | 28/140 (20%)     |
| Section Participation                   | Students will be assessed on attendance, participation, leading discussion, and research project workshopking. See Section syllabus.                                                                    | 28/140 (20%)     |
| Research Proposal                       | Students must propose a storytelling Research Project they will develop and research including any group team members.                                                                                             | 7/140 (5%)       |
| Research Outline                        | Students must turn in an outline of their proposed Research Project.                                                                                                                                               | 7/140 (5%)       |
| Research Draft                          | Students must turn in a draft of the Research Project.                                                                                                                                                           | 14/140 (10%)     |
| Final Research Project Submission and Presentation | Students must present their Final Research Project to the class and turn in the Final Project on bCourses with a short narrative of changes made from the initial draft.                                   | 35/140 (25%)     |
| Final Exam                              | The Final Exam format will be short essays that test your understanding of the core concepts of the course.                                                                                            | 21/140 (15%)     |
“Strawberries belong only to themselves. The exchange relationships we choose determine whether we share them as a common gift or sell them as a private commodity. A great deal rests on that choice. For the greater part of human history, and in places in the world today, common resources were the rule. But some invented a different story, a social construct in which everything is a commodity to be bought and sold. The market economy story has spread like wildfire, with uneven results for human well-being and devastation for the natural world. But it is just a story we have told ourselves and we are free to tell another....”

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall-Kimmerer (Anishinabekwe)

Research Project: Storytelling with an Eye Toward Social Justice

The student research projects should stem from a concept or topic addressed in the course and be applicable to the racial and colonial history of either UC Berkeley, or the history of the Bay Area. Using what Naito Taylor Saito calls “unsettling narratives” and Linda Tuhiwai Smith calls “decolonizing methodologies”, students will create a research project to challenge the settler-colonial narrative through storytelling and to move from theory into praxis. The project should foster innovation using multimedia, and engage a broader public, non-academic, audience. Research projects may use methods such as public art installations, educational websites, performance, audio storytelling or podcasting, short films, augmented reality tours, mapping, photography, campaigns for naming and renaming, and designs for memorials or anti-memorials, or a research paper.1 The research should be rooted in service of social justice and decolonization.

Please see these excellent examples of public facing projects completed by previous students:

- Touring UC Berkeley Through A Decolonized Lens: Uncovering Native History
- The Daily Cal, Memorial Stadium: Memorializing Indigenous history this month

Student Responsibilities and Accommodations

Academic Integrity and Honor Code: The purpose of the Honor Code is to enhance awareness of the need for the highest possible levels of integrity and respect on campus, both within and outside the academic context. Please review and adhere to the UC Berkeley Academic Honor Code (“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.”) and the Code of Student Conduct.

Academic Accommodations: The purpose of academic accommodations is to ensure that all students have a fair chance at academic success. Disability, or hardships such as basic needs insecurity, uncertain documentation and immigration status, medical and mental health concerns, significant familial distress, and experiencing sexual violence or harassment, can affect a student’s ability to satisfy course requirements. Students have the right to academic accommodations and to resources, without having to disclose personal information to instructors. Please review your right to academic accommodations here.

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1 See Chapter eight, Twenty-Five Indigenous Projects, in Linda Tuhiwai Smith’s Decolonizing Methodologies (and Indigenous research program focuses on acts of reclaiming, reformulating, and reconstructing cultures and languages coupled with themes of cultural survival, self-determination, healing, restoration, social justice).
## The Course Timeline & Readings
### Week 1 (January 17-20)

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### Week 2 (January 23-27)

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### Week 3 (January 30- February 3)

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Indigenous People and the California Gold Rush 1846-1873; *Ishi Wilderness* at 193-200; and *Berkeley and the East Bay* 299-305.


### Week 4 (February 6-10)

**February 7**


**February 9**


- Skim ACLU Northern California, *Gold Chains The Hidden History of Slavery in California*, Website (Laws & Cases), Podcasts.

### Week 5 (February 13-17)

**February 14**


- Review the Ten-Point Program for the Black Panther Party; the Proclamation of the Indians of All Tribes at Alcatraz; the Trail of Broken Treaties Twenty-Point Position Paper; the Third World Liberation Front Proposal for a Third World College; the Women’s Movement; compare them to the current platforms and demands of the Black Lives Matter movements; the 2021 Bureau of Indian Affairs sit in protest by the coalition “People vs. Fossil Fuels” including the demands by the Indigenous Environmental Network. This list of movements is not exhaustive but consider how these movements are related and reflect on their individual and collective impact. See FoundSF for a comprehensive list of Bay Area movements; see UC Berkeley’s Center for Race & Gender for documentation on the history of the Third World Liberation Front (review film and audio tab).

- Please read *Looking Forward from Land-Grab Universities* by Tristan Ahtone & Robert Lee, NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES, Volume 8, Issue 1, Spring 2021, pp. 176-182 (Article) to begin thinking about your potential project proposal due next week.
February 16


Week 6 (February 21-24)

February 21

- Guest Speakers: Research Librarians (Review Native American Collections at the Bancroft).

February 23

- Guest Speaker: Tony Platt

Week 7 (February 27- March 3)

February 28


March 2


The Research Project Proposal

(Due March 3 See bCourses for Requirements).
Week 8 (March 6-10)

• Jane Lawrence, *The Indian Health Service and the Sterilization of Native American Women*, 24 AMERICAN INDIAN Q. 3, 400-419 (2000). Project MUSE.  

| March 9 | • UC Berkeley Building Review Committee, *Proposal to Un-Name Kroeber Hall*, (July 1, 2020).  
• Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Alfred Kroeber and his Relations with California Indians*, BERKELEY BLOG (July, 24 2020).  

Week 9 (March 13-17)


The Research Project Outline  
(Due March 17th See bCourses for Requirements)

Week 10 (March 20-24)

### March 23

**[Berkeley Spring Break March 27-31]**

### Week 11 (April 3-7)

#### April 4

#### April 6
  - Review current or recent state and federal legislation THRR such as:

### Week 12 (April 10-14)

#### April 11
- David Treuer, *Return the National Parks to The Tribes-The jewels of America’s landscape should belong to America’s original peoples*, THE ATLANTIC (April 21, 2021).

#### April 13
- Campus Tour to visit the memorials from *Present Absences: Acknowledging Ohlone Land and Legacies at Berkeley* and *Making History: How Berkeley Forgets and Remembers Its Past*.

### Week 13 (April 17-21)

#### April 18

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### April 20

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<tr>
<td>Reflections on the Semester</td>
<td>Reflect with the students on the successes and challenges of the course and semester and provide time for students to discuss their research projects one-on-one. Provide final feedback on Final Research Project Drafts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Research Project Final Draft</td>
<td>(Due April 21 See bCourses for Requirements)</td>
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### Week 14 (April 24-28)

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Final Research Project Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Final Research Project Presentations</td>
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### Week 15 (Reading Week: May 1-5)

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<tr>
<td>May 1-5</td>
<td>Reading, Review, and Recitation (RRR) Week</td>
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Optional Exam Review Session will be held May 2 during our regularly scheduled lecture.

### Week 16 (Final Exam Period: May 8-12)

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<tr>
<td>May 8-12</td>
<td>Take Home Final Exam</td>
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The Final Exam will consist of several short essay questions and one fill in the blank. It is designed to test your knowledge of the learning goals:

- Demonstrate an understanding of settler-colonialism and decolonization;
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the history of race and colonization are interconnected with the law and their impacts on society today;
- Demonstrate an understanding of how race and colonization impact the story told about the history of UC Berkeley;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of resistance and truth, healing, reconciliation, and reparation movements; and
- Apply these learning objectives to research and create a storytelling project about the racial and colonial foundations of California and UC Berkeley with an eye toward justice.

Congratulations on completing the first permanent (non-seminar) “Decolonizing UC Berkeley” class!

Please do not hesitate to keep in touch going forward as I’m happy to provide letters of
recommendation for the various and exciting opportunities I’m sure are in store for you!

“If history is going to be scientific, if the record of human action is going to be set down with the accuracy and faithfulness of detail which will allow its use as a measuring rod and guidepost for the future of nations, there must be set some standards of ethics in research and interpretation. If, on the other hand, we are going to use history for our pleasure and amusement, for inflating our national ego, and giving us a false but pleasurable sense of accomplishment, then we must give up the idea of history as a science or as an art using the results of science, and admit frankly that we are using a version of historic fact in order to influence and educate the new generation along the way we wish. It is propaganda like this that has led men in the past to insist that history is “lies agreed upon”; and to point out the danger in such misinformation. It is indeed extremely doubtful if any permanent benefit comes to the world through such action....

Here in the United States we have a clear example.”


Why do you think I’ve included this quote? Email me with your answer for extra participation credit.