

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
University Honors Program
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 395g

Interterm 2012
Jan. 9 – Jan. 27, 2012

Gold Diggers: Economic development in the wake of the California gold rush

Faculty:	Steven Gjerstad	Eric Schniter	Joy Buchanan
Offices:	Wilkinson 119	Wilkinson 125	Wilkinson 108
Office hours:	T, Th 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	T, Th 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.	M, W 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Phone:	714-628-7282	714-628-7272	714-628-2806
E-mail:	gjerstad@chapman.edu	schniter@chapman.edu	joyabuchanan@gmail.com

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the University Honors Program or consent of instructor; completion of pre-trip hike to Mt. San Geronio. This course will examine the impact of the gold rush on the growth of the California economy and the challenges that settlers and miners had to overcome to establish mines, towns, a transportation network, property rights and legal institutions. The course includes hiking and camping trips to California mining sites. (Offered Interterm, as needed) 3 credits.

Course Objectives:

In this course we will examine the impact of the California gold rush on the growth and patterns of development of the California economy from the time of the gold rush through the first thirty years of statehood. The rapid growth of population that began with the gold rush created demand for agricultural goods, manufactured goods, shipping, inland transportation, and many other forms of economic activity. The rapid growth of the California population and economy and the relative geographical isolation of the state generated an interesting pattern of economic development. The development of most economic activity emanated from mining during the first quarter century after the discovery of gold in 1848, so that it is easier to trace out the trajectory of economic development in California than in many other states and countries. The objective of the course is to examine the growth of the California economy in order to better understand processes of economic development.

An important objective of the course is to examine the quantitative impact of mining on the development of the California economy by examining the value of minerals exported from California, the growth rate of mining revenues, and the impact that demand from the mining industry had on the growth of 'upstream industries' that provided a flow of physical resources

and services to the mining industry (and to which the mining industry provided a flow of financial resources). We will examine changes in the growth rates of different sectors of the California economy as it matured in an effort to understand the mechanics of economic development.

Content:

The California gold rush revolutionized the California economy after gold was discovered at Sutter's mill in 1848. In fewer than five years, the state population surged from a few thousand settlers to over 250,000 people. The miners extracted hundreds of millions of dollars worth of gold, silver, and other metals. Although these miners represented only 0.4% of the U.S. population, they earned almost 3 percent of the national income in 1851! When the gold available from panning and sluicing became scarce, the miners developed hydraulic mining, which required more equipment. As a result, industrial production, lumber mills, agriculture, fisheries, and mercury mining all grew to support the gold and silver mining industries. All of this activity provided the economic rationale for the transcontinental railroad, which was started in Sacramento in 1863. In many ways, the gold rush is responsible for the rapid development of California's economy.

Current Required Texts:

Rawls, James J. and Richard J. Orsi (1999). *A Golden State: Mining and Economic Development in Gold Rush California*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Instructional Strategies:

Instruction will be based on readings, group discussions, and travel to historical mining sites in the Panamint and Inyo mountain ranges of eastern California. Readings will cover a range of issues in mining and economic development of California. The hikes will be long and challenging, including a 3,700' climb with packs to the ruins of Panamint City in the Panamint Mountains and a 5,800' climb, also with packs, to the site of the Bighorn Mine in the Inyo Mountains. We will also have shorter excursions by vehicle to the charcoal kilns in Wildrose Canyon and to the Lost Burro Mine which has some of the best preserved ruins in Death Valley.

Methods of Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on two quizzes, discussions, and a final paper. During the trip, students should identify a historical topic of interest and after the trip write a paper of about 6 to 10 pages, based on primary or secondary historical materials, on an aspect of the development of the California economy during the period from 1846 to about 1880. The quizzes will each be 20 percent of the course grade. Evaluation of discussions will be another 20 percent of the grade. The paper will count for the remaining 40 percent of the grade.

Schedule:

Informational meeting:	September 29, 2011	4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Wilkinson 116
Pre-trip hike:	October 8, 2011	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Mt. San Gorgonio (meet at Schmid Gate)
Organizational meeting:	December 8, 2011	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Wilkinson 116
Lectures and discussion:	January 9 – 12, 2012	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	DeMille Hall
Lectures and discussion:	January 13, 2012	10:00 a.m. to noon	DeMille Hall
Trip start:	January 15, 2012	8:00 a.m.	Schmid Gate
Trip end:	January 22, 2012	8:00 p.m.	Schmid Gate
Lectures and discussion:	January 23 – 26	10:00 a.m. to noon	DeMille Hall
Paper due:	January 27, 2012	5:00 p.m.	Wilkinson 119

Trip Itinerary – Interterm 2012:

Jan. 15, 2012: Drive 206 miles from Orange to the mouth of Surprise Canyon. Camp at the base of Surprise Canyon.

Jan. 16: Hike 5 miles to Panamint City. Panamint City was the focus of one of the largest speculative bubbles in California mining history, and it holds some of the most extensive ruins in Death Valley.

Jan. 17: Hike back to the mouth of Surprise Canyon. Drive 31.0 miles to Panamint Springs for an early dinner. Panamint Springs Resort has an extensive photograph collection from the history of Death Valley and it provides a nice location for a discussion of the Panamint City hike. Drive 26.5 miles to the Wildrose campground.

Jan. 18: Drive 56 miles to Farabee's Jeep Rental in Furnace Creek, CA. Drive 107 miles to the mouth of Hunter Canyon in the Saline Valley and hike up to the platform at the 3,700 foot level.

Jan. 19: Hike to the Bighorn Spring. Set up camp and hike up to the Bighorn mine with day packs. The Bighorn mine and Bighorn spring have numerous ruins and was one of the most remote mines in the Death Valley region. Hike back to the Bighorn Spring camp.

Jan. 20: Hike back to the Jeeps at the mouth of Hunter Canyon. Drive 11 miles to Saline Valley Warm Spring and camp there.

Jan. 21: Drive 33 miles to the Racetrack playa. Take a hike and have a discussion on the playa. Drive 12 miles to the Lost Burro Mine and set up camp. Explore the mine shafts, stamp mills and water works that brought a water supply to the Lost Burro Mine. The Lost Burro mine has one of the best preserved stamp mill ruins in Death Valley. The stamp mill was invented and manufactured in California soon after the start of gold rush, when the surface gold in streams was exhausted.

Jan. 22: Drive 81.5 miles back to Farabee's to return the Jeeps by 8 a.m. Drive 56 miles to the Crowbar Cafe in Shoshone, CA for breakfast. There is a hot spring swimming pool in Shoshone for anyone who wants a swim. Drive 229 miles back to Orange.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:

Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Reading list:

Bethel, A.C.W. (1999). "The Golden Skein: California's Gold Rush Transportation Network," Chapter 12 in *A Golden State*, pp. 250 – 275.

Gates, Paul W. (1962). "California's Embattled Settlers," *California Historical Society Quarterly*, 41, pp. 99-130

Hutchings' California Magazine (1856). "Packing in the Mountains of California," December 1856, pp. 241–249.

Jung, Maureen A. (1999). "Capitalism Comes to the Diggings: From Gold Rush Adventure to Corporate Enterprise," Chapter 3 in *A Golden State*, pp. 52 – 77.

Mason, Richard B. (1848). "Official Report on the Gold Mines."

Rawls, James J. (1999). "A Golden State: An Introduction," Chapter 1 in *A Golden State*, pp. 1 – 23.

St. Clair, David J. (1999). "The Gold Rush and the Beginnings of California Industry," Chapter 9 in *A Golden State*, pp. 185 – 208.

Sherman, William Tecumseh (1848). *The California Gold Fields in 1848: Two Letters from Lieutenant W. T. Sherman, U.S. Army*. Limited edition printed in 1964 by Frederick W. Beinecke.

Sherman, William Tecumseh (1945). *Recollections of California, 1846-1861*.

Oakland, CA: Biobooks.

[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/calbk:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(calbk085\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/calbk:@field(DOCID+@lit(calbk085)))

Sherman, William Tecumseh (1990). *Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman*. New York: Library of America, Chapters II – VII, pp. 35 – 183.

Simpson, Henry I. (1848). *The emigrant's guide to the gold mines: three weeks in the gold mines, or Adventures with the gold diggers of California in August, 1848*. New York: Joyce and Co.

M'Collum, William S. (1850). *California as I saw it: Pencillings by the way of its gold and gold diggers! and incidents of travel by land and water*. Buffalo: G.H. Derby & Co. Reprinted by Talisman Press (1960).

Prepared by Steven Gjerstad and Joy Buchanan

Last revised on September 7, 2011