

**SAMPLE SYLLABUS FOR 10-WEEK COLLEGE COURSE  
CALIFORNIA CIVIL LIBERTIES HISTORY**

1. **Week One - Introduction: The Role of Civil Liberties/Civil Rights in a Democracy.**
  - a. What are civil rights and civil liberties and what are the differences between them?
  - b. Civil liberties and civil rights have developed over time through social movements and lawsuits brought by ordinary people
  - c. At some point in time, the civil liberties of every minority group in California have been violated
2. **Week Two - Early California Constitutions and the Rights they Conferred and Denied**
  - a. 1849 constitution and the treatment of Indians, Blacks, Mexicans, and women
  - b. Vigilantism and the 1879 constitution's anti-Chinese provisions
3. **Week Three - Immigration: The Treatment of Newcomers in the Golden State**
  - a. Historical experiences: Chinese immigration and Angel Island, braceros
  - b. Recent and current issues: bilingual education, Prop. 187, Operation Gatekeeper
4. **Week Four - Labor: Civil rights to Protect Working Conditions and the Public Interest**
  - a. Wobblies, waterfront strikes and working-class organizing
  - b. The UFW and treatment of immigrant workers
5. **Week Five - Civil Rights: A Weapon Against Racism in California**
  - a. 19<sup>th</sup> century struggles against discrimination and segregation
  - b. Modern forms of racism; fair housing struggles; and affirmative action.
6. **Week Six - Holding Up Half the Sky: The Rights of Women**
  - a. Trafficking of Chinese women and historical struggles for suffrage and employment
  - b. Contemporary women's movement: abortion rights; equal employment opportunity
7. **Week Seven - Free speech and Rights of Dissent**
  - a. Origins of the ACLU in California; the Red Scare, loyalty oaths, Free Speech Movement and Chicano Moratorium
  - b. Famous anti-censorship battles: *Grapes of Wrath*, *Howl*, Internet censorship
8. **Week Eight - LGBT and Disability Rights: Civil liberties as a Tool for Marginalized Groups**
  - a. Homophobes vs. homophiles, AIDS, transgender resistance, family relations
  - b. Accommodations as a means to equality for people with disabilities
9. **Week Nine - The Wrong Side of the Law & California as Creator of New Criminal Justice Precedents**
  - a. Civil liberties as the great protector from legal oppression
  - b. Sleepy Lagoon Case, Death Penalty, racial profiling and police brutality
10. **Week Ten - Japanese Internment: Emblematic Symbol of a Contested History And Looking Ahead**
  - a. Forced removal, detention , internment; *Korematsu* challenge; 1980s redress
  - b. Surveillance, no-fly lists and the PATRIOT Act. Individual/movement defense of key democratic rights; remember to exercise your rights.

**Significant events, individuals, and cases to cover in the course (not mentioned above):**

Biddy Mason and Archy Lee, slaves who won freedom; labor leaders Tom Mooney and Harry Bridges, *Mendez v. Westminster* ending segregation of Mexican American students; Port Chicago mutiny trial; Prop 14, 1964 initiative to overturn fair housing laws; *Perez v. Sharp* ending California's anti-miscegenation law; *Bakke v. UC*, Charlotte Whitney; Black Panther Geronimo Pratt; Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon; Harvey Milk; Prop. 8 and marriage equality; disability rights advocate Ed Roberts; Section 504 disability rights protest; Watts riots; Rodney King beating; resistance internment at Tule Lake.

Source: <http://www.wherevertheresafight.com>