Assignment: You will select a topic of your own history pertaining to the history of California and write a 6-8 page research paper in which you present a historical interpretation of the topic. The 150 total points are divided up as follows:

Project Proposal Due: Friday, September 9 (10 Points)

Submit a one paragraph (at least 4-5 sentences) typed, double spaced proposal identifying a California history topic of your choosing. The research topic must have some connection to the history of California but may link to broader issues. For example, a paper discussing Chinese immigration to California during the nineteenth century might also explain why conditions in China motivated many to seek opportunities elsewhere. You may include your initial thoughts about the overall argument of your paper within the proposal, but this does not obligate you to maintain the same interpretation for the final paper. Your interpretation may change after you have researched the topic. I may modify the project to expand or limit its scope in order to facilitate completion. Proposals shorter than four sentences will be marked down.

No points will be awarded for late proposals though you may still submit one to receive feedback. Skimming through your book may help you come up with ideas. If you have a general topic of interest—World War II, for example—read through the relevant chapter(s) in your book as this may narrow your focus to a more manageable topic (the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II, the growth of the defense industry in California during the war, Hollywood and World War II, etc.). Please note that I will require you to narrow your focus if you select a broad topic like the Gold Rush as such topics are far too broad to discuss in 6-8 pages. If you need help identifying a topic contact me as soon as possible and let me know about general topics that might interest you. I can try to offer some suggestions if I have a sense of what you might like to research.

Preliminary Bibliography Due: Friday, October 7 (15 Points)

Submit a typed, properly formatted preliminary bibliography (MLA or Chicago) providing full citations for at least five credible sources (scholarly sources or primary sources). If you are unfamiliar with citations, use the MLA format as there are ample guides available to help you. Points will be deducted for missing, incomplete, or improperly formatted citations. In addition you will lose points if you do not have at least five scholarly sources. You may include the textbook in your bibliography but it does not count as one of the five required sources. I do not expect that you will have read all of your sources at this point, but this assignment will demonstrate that you have started to gather relevant information. We will visit the library to provide you with an introduction to the materials available to you here at Citrus.
Preliminary bibliographies submitted after the deadline will be penalized 3 points for each day late. Please note that your book offers a list of suggested readings at the conclusion of each chapter. You may certainly use this list to jumpstart your research. The library on campus may not have all of the books listed, meaning you may wish to investigate filing an interlibrary loan (ILL) request. Books ordered through ILL may take 2 weeks to arrive. Do not wait until the last minute to order ILL materials if you need them. Suggestion: It may be worth your time to investigate the recommended authors to see what else they have published. The author of a scholarly book may have published journal articles presenting the same arguments in a more condensed format.

When I return the preliminary bibliographies to you on October 14, I will have provided at least one suggestion on another book or article. You must track this source down or you will lose points on the final essay. The librarians can help you order the book or article through ILL if necessary.

Excerpt/Outline of Essay Assignment Due: Friday, November 4 (25 Points)

Students will submit the introduction—meaning the first paragraph—to their essay. This will enable me to see your thesis and the overall direction of your essay. You will then include an outline of the remainder of your essay. This outline should reveal your major arguments and show how you are planning to organize your essay. I will provide comments on your introduction and outline to help you improve the final paper. Excerpts/outslines submitted after the deadline will be penalized 5 points for each day late. You may submit longer sections of your essay if you want additional feedback/guidance.

Final Essay Due: Essay Assignment Due: Friday, December 2 11:30 A.M. (100 Points)

You will submit an electronic version of your essay to Turnitin through Blackboard. You do not need to provide me with a hard copy.

The final essay will:
1. Have a clear thesis identifying the student’s argument about some aspect of California history.
2. Develop clear arguments presenting your interpretation while drawing upon relevant and acceptable sources as evidence.
3. Draw upon at least five scholarly sources (articles and books), exclusive of any course materials (textbooks and lectures). You must also locate and cite at least two primary sources within your essay. If you are having trouble locating relevant primary sources, please contact me.
4. You must have located the suggested book or article I listed on your preliminary bibliography. You will lose points if you have not located the source and made some effort to use it in your essay.
5. Contain clear citations for any cited material. Students may use a citation format (MLA or Chicago) of their choosing, but they must be consistent. Many students are most familiar with MLA (if you have written papers for other classes here at Citrus, your
professors probably required you to use MLA), but you are welcome to use Chicago if you have previous experience in using it.

6. Include a bibliography providing full citations for all cited materials. The bibliography is exclusive of the 6-8 required pages of text. Be sure to include the bibliography with your essay even if it has not changed from the version you submitted in October.

7. Follow the formatting guidelines listed below:

**Evaluation:** Papers will be judged on the following criteria: your thesis, the strength of the arguments in your essay, your usage of research and the quality of your sources, your conclusion, and your use of citations. In addition, I will be evaluating your paper for spelling and grammar, syntax and sentence structure, organization and paragraph structure (topic sentences, development evidence, transitions). I will be providing you with a rubric to show the exact point breakdown for each of the listed categories.

**Guidelines for Research Essay**

1. I will enforce the following page margins/font/page number requirements STRICTLY. Make sure your computer margins are all set at 1”.

You MUST use Times New Roman 12 point font, and the paper MUST be numbered (either bottom center or top right hand corner). Also, include your name in the numbering system (i.e.: Jones 2, Jones 3, etc.). You do not need to include a page number of the first page.

2. Do not “stuff” your first page with unnecessary information (your student ID number, meeting times of the class, my office number, etc.). Your first page should begin thusly:

   Your Name (Left adjusted, first line)
   History 139 (left adjusted, second line)
   Fall 2016 (left adjusted, third line)
   Dr. Robert Miller (left adjusted, fourth line)
   One blank space
   Title of the paper (Centered, either underlined or in italics)
   One blank space
   Your first paragraph (From this point forward, the paper should be double-spaced)
The Cherokee Advocate and the Inevitability of Allotment

The Cherokees resisted coming to an agreement with the Dawes Commission longer than any of the other Five Tribes, even as the Tribal Council recognized the need for eventual allotment and sought to carry out the policy on its own terms.

3. A cover sheet (title page) is not necessary and is exclusive of the 6-page minimum.
4. Use proper formal English. Do not use abbreviations or contractions. For example, do not use shouldn’t, isn’t, etc. Spell out all words. For example, do not use “vs.” as a substitute for “versus.”
5. Invent a title. Do not write “Term Paper” or “Assignment,” for example. Part of writing, whether it be creative or analytical, is to create a title that might actually make someone want to read the paper. You can be clever, incorporate a theme from your research, or create any other relevant title for your paper.
6. Do not rely on the spell-check feature on your computer to catch all mistakes. Misused words/awkward grammar often escape the spell-check feature. Repeated grammatical mistakes will cost you points. Read and re-read your paper several times to find mistakes.
7. LENGTH: The guidelines state that the paper should be 6-8 pages long. To be considered 6 pages long, the sixth page MUST be a full page, and papers should not exceed the limit (more than a few lines on a page). Any papers under 6 full pages will be marked down proportionately.
8. WRITING GUIDE: Note that there is a writing guide available on blackboard. The writing guide will provide you with additional advice on how to write an effective essay. You should read through the guide before you begin writing your essay as it will help you avoid potential problems.
9. SOURCES: Using the database subscriptions available to you at Citrus, you are to focus your research on scholarly and primary sources. You may not include Wikipedia or similar websites to help meet your source total. The main value of Wikipedia is in using the bibliographies for relevant entries to track down source material. While you may use the textbook, it also does not count as one of the five scholarly sources.
10. Papers submitted on December 2 after 11:50 A.M. will be reduced by 5 points; 10 additional points will be deducted for each calendar day the assignment is late. Exceptions will only be made in cases of emergency. Emergency is defined as follows: a
serious personal illness (certified by a doctor’s note) or a death in your immediate family. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor of such an emergency immediately via e-mail.

11. It is a good idea to retain multiple electronic copies of important assignments so that you will always have a backup. For example, you might keep a copy of your essay on a flash drive, on your laptop, and periodically e-mail the updated file to yourself.

12. **Turnitin:** I will post a Turnitin submission link on blackboard and provide you with directions if you are unfamiliar with the system.

13. **Each student must present his/her original essay for evaluation.** Violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Dean of students for appropriate action and will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment. This means that you cannot copy/paste material from websites or copy material directly from books and articles. A major part of writing is putting material in your own words and demonstrating you understand it and how it supports your argument.

14. Please note that this assignment (including the proposal, bibliography, and introduction/outline) is worth 30% of your course grade. Do not forfeit these points by refusing to complete the assignment. The loss of 150 out of 500 possible points for the semester will make it all but impossible for students to pass the course. Even if your final essay is incomplete, submit what you have on the due date so that you can earn partial credit.

15. Finally, allow yourself plenty of time to read your sources and write the paper. Do not wait until the night before to write the essay. “Midnight Specials” are usually pretty easy to spot, and often do not reflect the ability of the students writing them.