

JNST OOOO – Fall 2020

*California Dreaming*

T/TH 2:30-3:50pm

Provost Kathy Ogren

*California Dreaming: Enticing Myths and Sustainable Realities'*

California has long lured travelers from all directions of the globe through promises of natural wonders, agricultural and economic prosperity, cultural innovation and exciting cities. Are California's mythic stories and historical realities emblematic of the North American West in general? Or is California, as Teddy Roosevelt claimed, "West of the West?" Historically one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions on the United States, a wide range of storytellers recorded these diverse examples of California dreaming' in prose, poetry, environmental journalism, song and visual arts. This seminar invites you to discover your own passions for learning about California's distinctive people and places through reading, writing, visual media, research, discussion and observation. At the same time, it challenges you to confront the contested promise and peril of "California dreaming." Some writers that would probably show up in our reading: Joan Didion, Carey Williams, Chester Himes, Kimi Kodani Hill, John Muir, Rebecca Solnit.

Some field trips and option to negotiate, including a trip to the Marin campus for Bay Area explorations.