

“California is artificial.” We’ve all heard it, usually as a pejorative. This course takes it literally, recognizing that California’s economy, environment, leisure culture, and even the bodies of the people themselves are made of technology. California, in short, is the home of the engineer. The course will examine the history of technology in the Golden State from the Gold Rush to the present, including tech-based knowledge economies from mining and oil to aerospace, Silicon Valley, and biotech, and massive technological infrastructure for water, power, and transportation.