

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1982-83

History 327

Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy  
in America Since 1870

Mr. Hollingsworth

This course has two basic concerns: (1) to analyze the political and economic institutions which have emerged in the United States since 1890, and (2) to analyze how these institutional arrangements have influenced various types of social and economic policies which have been implemented since the Second World War.

A main concern of the course is to analyze the nature of American capitalism during the twentieth century and to emphasize how it is distinctive and similar to other highly industrialized, capitalistic systems.

The first part of the course will focus on the social, economic, and political arrangements which had become highly institutionalized by 1940. The second part will focus on how these institutional arrangements placed constraints on the formation and implementation of public policies after 1940. In addition, substantial attention will be devoted throughout the course to analyzing what groups have benefitted by the social, economic, and political arrangements in the United States since 1890.

There is no single textbook which covers the materials in the course. However, each student is advised to purchase James Weinstein, The Corporate Ideal in the Liberal State. You may wish to purchase the following books, though there will be one or more copies on reserve in the Helen White Library and/or the State Historical Society:

- 1) G. William Domhoff, The Higher Circles: The Governing Class in America
- 2) Otis Graham, The New Deal
- 3) Glenn Porter, The Rise of Big Business, 1860-1910

The bulk of the reading will consist of xeroxed essays which you should purchase from one of the photoduplication shops near the campus. These will be prepared in a packet, and the shop which has prepared these will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

As this is a four credit course, there will be frequent discussion sections which each student is expected to attend.

There will be two written assignments during the semester, each being a take-home examination on which you will have several days to work. (It has been my experience that students learn much more from take-home examinations than from in class exams.) The dates for the take-home exams are as follows:

- October 18-22 (35 percent of final grade)
- December 8-13 (45 percent of final grade)

Participation in discussion sections will count approximately 20 percent of the final grade.

Lawrence Goodwyn, The Populist Movement, Chapters 1, 2 (Helen C. White Library and State Historical Society).

September 29: Socialism in America (1900-1921)

James Weinstein, "The Problems of the Socialist Party" (xerox packet).

Daniel Bell, "The Decline of American Socialism" (xerox packet).

October 4: Structure and Process in American Political Machines

M. Ostrogorski, Democracy and the Organization of Political Parties, Vol. II, Chapter 6 (Helen C. White Library and State Historical Society).

October 6, 11: Interest Group Politics, 1900-1917

James Weinstein, The Corporate Ideal in the Liberal State (Helen C. White Library and State Historical Society).

Samuel P. Hays, "The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era" (xerox packet).

Gabriel Kolko, The Triumph of Conservatism, Chapters 3, 4 (Helen C. White Library and State Historical Society).

October 13: The Shift from Welfare Capitalism to Industrial Unionism

Stuart Brandes, "American Welfare Capitalism" (xerox packet).

Stanley Aronowitz, "Trade Unionism and Workers Control" (xerox packet).

October 18: Interest Group Politics in the 1920's

Ellis Hawley, "Herbert Hoover and the Crisis of American Capitalism" (xerox packet).

October 20, 25: The American System in Crisis

Otis Graham, The New Deal (Helen C. White Library and State Historical Society).

Part II: The Changing Structure of the American Political Economy, 1945-1982

October 27: Mergers and the Emergence of the Corporate Conglomerate

Review the earlier reading by Chandler, Strategy and Structure, Chapter 7 (Helen C. White Library).

Gardiner Means, "Economic Concentration" (xerox packet).

Willard F. Mueller, "Conglomerate Mergers" (xerox packet).

Harold S. Geneen, "The Rationale for Conglomerates" (xerox packet).

November 22, 24: Health Policy

E. Richard Brown, "A Half Century of Medicine in Corporate Capitalist Society" (xerox packet).

November 29, December 1: The Welfare State and the Distribution of Income

Review Hollingsworth, "The Political Structural Basis for Economic Performance" (xerox packet).

James O'Connor, "The Fiscal Crisis of the State" (xerox packet).

Wallace Peterson, "The Distribution of Income and the Role of Government" (xerox packet).

Thomas Weisskopf, "Capitalism and Inequality" (xerox packet).

December 6: Political and Economic Power in America

G. William Domhoff, The Higher Circles: The Governing Class in America (Helen C. White Library and State Historical Society).

December 8: Structure and Performance in American Society

Review: Hollingsworth and Hanneman, "Leftist Governments, Working Class Power, and the Political Economy of Advanced Capitalist Societies" (Helen C. White Library).

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester I Year \_\_\_\_\_

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
327	Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy in America Since 1870	Mr. Hollingsworth

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to focus on the distribution of power in twentieth century America. It (1) will analyze the social and political institutional arrangements which have emerged in the United States since 1890, and (2) will analyze how these institutional arrangements have influenced various types of social and economic policies which have been implemented since the Second World War.

Implicit in the course will be a comparative perspective, focusing on the relative weakness of the working class and the consequences of the weakness of leftist political parties in twentieth century America. The course will also focus on the way in which the business community is organized in twentieth century America and the consequences of that organization and public policy.

LECTURES

There will be two lectures weekly, 1:00-2:15. In addition, there will be frequent discussion sections for discussion of readings and lectures.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

No formal paper is required in the course, though there will be two take home examinations during the semester.

GRADING SYSTEM

The first take home examination will count 35 percent of the final grade, the second 45 percent, and discussion sections approximately 20 percent.

REQUIRED READINGS

Most of the readings will be journal articles or chapters in individual books which the Poly U Photocopy Center is duplicating for the course. Other materials will be on reserve in the Helen White and State Historical Society Libraries.