

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester I Year 77-78

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
621	History of American Thought	Conkin

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In effect, this will be two mini-courses, each self-contained and each lasting for half the semester. Both will emphasize basic beliefs held by Americans, and both will at times involve some rather technical philosophical or theological doctrines. The first small course will involve a survey of Christian thought, with background lectures on the Old Testament Hebrews, on Greek thought, on the divisions of the Reformation, and particularly Calvinism. The main body of lectures will emphasize the Reformed Churches in colonial America, the religious changes in the 18th century, and the evangelical movements and new sects of the post-1800 era. Major figures will be John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, and a group of rationalists and evangelists.

The second mini-course will focus almost completely on political and economic thought, with background lectures on classical and early modern origins of popular sovereignty, natural rights, and theories about separation and division. The more detailed lectures will be on seventeenth century English political theory, on colonial contributions, and particularly on the American Revolution and the early constitutional period. Main individuals will include Hobbes and Locke, Althus and Winthrop, Adams and Jefferson, Taylor and Toqueville, Madison and Calhoun.

LECTURES

Lectures and discussions combined in two 2-hour sessions.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

At least two brief papers, possibly more. Close to a tutorial approach. Likewise, at least two examinations.

GRADING SYSTEM

The one used by the University.

REQUIRED READINGS

THE NEW TESTAMENT, NEW ENGLISH VERSION  
John Calvin, On the Christian Faith  
Jonathan Edwards, On the Nature of True Virtue  
THE POLITICAL WRITINGS OF JOHN ADAMS  
John C. Calhoun, The Disquisition on Government and Selections  
John Locke, Two Treatises on Government  
Paul Conkin, Self-Evident Truths