

Department of History

Semester I Year 1978-79

<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, on the American Revolution and the early constitutional period, and on the early development of political economy in America. Main individuals will include Hobbes and Locke, Adams and Jefferson, Taylor and Toqueville, Madison and Calhoun, Tucker and Henry C. Carey.

LECTURES

Lectures and discussions.

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
plus some secondary works.