

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Fall 1978

History 626 American Social History, 1860 to the Present

Mr. Sharpless
4110 Humanities Bldg.
263-1816

Office Hours:

Basic Requirements: The questions for both the mid-term and final will be distributed the third week of classes. Each student will be expected to participate in a workshop on some social history topic. An additional short essay or project may result from the workshop.

Reading Outline

American Social History, 1865-1910

Background:

- *#Carl Degler, The Age of the Economic Revolution, 1876-1900
- #Robert Wiebe, The Search for Order, 1877-1920
- #Samuel Hays, The Response to Industrialism, 1885-1914
- Ray Ginger, Age of Excess: The United States from 1877 to 1914

Contemporary Views:

- #Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery
- *James W. Johnson, Along This Way
- #Willa Cather, My Antonia
- Hamlin Garland, A Son of the Middle Border
- Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull-House
- Abraham Cahan, The Rise of David Levinsky

Reading on Special Topics:

- John & Virginia Demos, "Adolescence in Historical Perspective," Journal of Marriage and the Family, vol. 30 (1969): 632-38.
- Herbert Gutman, "Work, Culture and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919," American Historical Review, vol. 78 (1973): 531-87.
- Kirk Jeffrey, "The Family as Utopian Retreat from the City," Soundings, vol. 55 (1972): 21-41.
- Joseph F. Kett, "Adolescence and Youth in Nineteenth Century America," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, vol. 2 (1971): 283-98.
- J.M. Kingsdale, "The Poor Man's Club: Social Functions of the Urban Working Class Saloon," American Quarterly, vol. 25 (1973): 472-89.
- C.E. Rosenberg, "Sexuality, Class and Role in 19th Century America," American Quarterly, vol. 25 (1973): 131-153.
- B. Barker-Benfield, "The Spermatic Economy: A Nineteenth-Century View of Sexuality," Feminist Studies, vol. 1 (1972).

Mid-Term:

American Social History, 1890-1930

Background:

- #Henry F. May, The End of American Innocence, 1912-1917.

W.E. Leuchtenburg, The Perils of Prosperity, 1914-1932.
M. White, Social Thought in America
L.A. Cremin, The Transformation of the School
H. Pelling, American Labor

Contemporary Views:

*James W. Johnson, Along This Way
*Dorothy Richardson, Women at Work [in William L. O'Neill, ed., Women at Work (1972)]
*Ernest Hemingway, A Moveable Feast
#Sinclair Lewis, Main Street
Sinclair Lewis, Babbitt
Robert S. Lynd & H.M. Lynd, Middletown
William Haywood, The Autobiography of Big Bill Haywood
Walter Lippmann, A Preface to Politics
M. Cowley, Exile's Return
Freda Kirchwey (ed.), Our Changing Morality: A Symposium (1924)

Reading on Special Topics:

John W. Ward, "The Meaning of Lindbergh's Flight," American Quarterly, vol. 10 (1958): 3-16.
Christopher Lasch, The New Radicalism in America 1889-1963: The Intellectual as a Social Type.
Jill Conway, "Women Reformers and American Culture, 1870-1930," Journal of Social History, 5 (1971-72): 164-77.
David Kennedy, Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger.
L.C. Adams, "Behaviorism in the 1920's," American Quarterly, vol. 7 (1955): 15-30.
Marjorie Rosen, Popcorn Venus: Women, Movies and the American Dream.
Calvin Coolidge, "Whose Country is This?" Good Housekeeping, February 1921: 13-14, 106, 108.
Stuart Ewen, Captains of Consciousness: Advertising and the Social Roots of Consumer Culture.
Robert Woods and A. Kennedy, The Zone of Emergence.

American Social History, 1930-1970

Background:

E.F. Goldman, The Crucial Decade and After.
*Carl N. Degler, Affluence and Anxiety.
#Richard Krikus, Pursuing the American Dream: White Ethics and the Populism
A. Skolnick & J.H. Skolnick, Intimacy, Family and Society.
R. Warren, Community in America.

Contemporary Views:

*Woody Guthrie, Bound for Glory.
James Agee & Walker Evans, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men.
Studs Terkel, Hard Times.
James T. Farrell, Studs Lonigan.

Doris Lessing, A Proper Marriage.
Mirra Kamarovsky, Blue Collar Marriage.
Helena Lopata, Widowhood in an American City (pp. 15-39)

Malcolm (Little) X, The Autobiography of Malcolm X.

Richard Wright, Black Boy.

*Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi.

John Updike, Rabbit Run.

Philip Roth, Portnoy's Complaint.

*M. Medved and D. Wallechinsky, What Really Happened to the Class of '65?

(A supplemental list of Social History materials for the fifties and sixties will be provided later in the term.)

*Available at University Bookstore

#On reserve at Historical Society.