

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester 1, 1983-1984

History 901

Political Economy in America Since 1890

Mr. Hollingsworth

The main concern of the seminar is (1) to analyze changes in the structure of power in twentieth century America, and (2) to assess the impact of that power on public policy.

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 on public policy.

Students should read widely on the topics to be discussed each week. Each student is to write two papers (10 to 15 typed pages) based on a book from the original readings (or a book related to the assigned topics but one approved by the instructor). The two papers should be on different topics. The first paper is due no later than October 13 and the second no later than December 1.

The weekly topics and readings are as follows:

Week of September 1: Introduction.

Theoretical Perspective:

Rogers Hollingsworth, "The Political-Structural Basis for Economic Performance," The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 459 (January, 1982), 28-45. (Also on reserve in Helen White Library.)

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

Week of September 8: The Weakness of Socialism in America.

Readings: Seymour Martin Lipset, "Why No Socialism in the United States," in Seweryn Bialer, editor, Radicalism in the Contemporary Age, pp. 31-149.

James Weinstein, The Decline of Socialism in America, 1912-1925.

Week of September 15: Perspectives on American Populism.

Readings: Larry Goodwyn, The Populist Movement.

Consult: Pollack, Handlin, Unger, and Hollingsworth, "Populism Discussion," Agricultural History, 39 (April 1965), 59-85.
Richard Hofstadter, The Age of Reform, pp. 3-130.
James Turner, "Understanding the Populists," Journal of American History, 67 (1980), 354-73.

Week of September 22: The Structure of the Working Class in Twentieth Century America.

Readings: John H. M. Laslett, Labor and the Left: A Study of Socialist and Radical Influences in the American Labor Movement, 1881-1924.

Melvin Dubofsky, We Shall Be All: A History of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Week of September 29: The Structure of the Working Class in Twentieth Century America.

Readings: David Brody, Steelworkers in America.

Daniel Nelson, Mangers and Workers: Origins of the New Factory System in the United States, 1880-1920.

Nelson Lichtenstein, Labor's War At Home: The C.I.O. in World War II.

Consult: Harry Braverman, Labor and Monopoly Capital: The Degradation of Work in the Twentieth Century, Chapter 4 through 10.

Week of October 6: The Changing Structure of the American Corporation.

Reading: Alfred D. Chandler, The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business.

Consult: Alfred D. Chandler, Strategy and Structure: Chapters in the History of American Industrial Enterprises, especially Chapter 7 and Conclusion.

Week of October 13: Political Structure and Public Policy During the Progressive Era.

Reading: James Weinstein, The Corporate Ideal in the Liberal State.

Consult: Gabriel Kolko, The Triumph of Conservatism.

Samuel P. Hays, "The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era," Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Vol. 55 (October, 1964), 157-169.

Week of October 20: The Politics of the 1920s.

Reading: Robert F. Himmelberg, The Origins of the National Recovery Administration: Business, Government, and the Trade Association Issue, 1921-1933.

Consult: Ellis W. Hawley, The Great War and the Search for a Modern Order: A History of the American People and Their Institutions, 1917-1933.

Ellis W. Hawley, "Herbert Hoover, the Commerce Secretariat, and the Vision of an Associative State, 1921-1928," Journal of American History, LXI (June, 1974).

Week of October 27: The New Deal and American Interest Group Politics.

Readings: Ellis W. Hawley, The New Deal and the Problem of Monopoly.

W. E. Leuchtenberg, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Kenneth Finegold and Theda Skocpol, "Capitalists, Farmers and Workers in the New Deal" (on reserve in the Historical Society)

Consult: Barton Bernstein, "The New Deal: The Conservative Achievements of Liberal Reform," in Barton Bernstein, editor, Towards A New Past: Dissenting Essays in American History.

Week of November 3: The Emergence of a Welfare State.

Readings: Edward Berkowitz and Kim McQuaid, Creating the Welfare State: The Political Economy of Twentieth Century Reform.

James O'Connor, The Fiscal Crisis of the State (to be read by everyone).

Week of November 10: Medical Care in Twentieth Century America.

Readings: Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine.

E. Richard Brown, Rockefeller Medicine Men: Medicine and Capitalism in America.

Consult: Rosemary Stevens, American Medicine and the Public Interest.

Week of November 17: Changing Dimensions of Power in Twentieth Century America.

Readings: Philip Burch, The Managerial Revolution Reassessed: Family Control in America's Large Corporations or

David Kotz, Bank Control of Large Corporations in the United States.

Carl Harris, Political Power in Birmingham or

Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

Consult: Maurice Zeitlin, "Corporate Control and Ownership: The Large Corporations and the Capitalist Class," 79 American Journal of Sociology (March, 1974), 1073-1119.

J. Rogers Hollingsworth and Ellen Jane Hollingsworth, Dimensions in Urban History: Historical and Social Science Perspectives on Middle-Size American Cities, Chapter 1.

Week of December 1: Income Distribution and Poverty in America.

Readings: Jeffrey G. Williamson and Peter H. Lindert, American Inequality: A Microeconomic History.

James T. Patterson, America's Struggle Against Poverty: 1900-1980.

Consult: J. Rogers Hollingsworth, "The Political Structural Basis for Economic Performance," The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 459 (January, 1982), 28-45.

Week of December 8: The Role of Government in Shaping Economic Performance.

Readings: Robert M. Collins, The Business Response to Keynes, 1929-1964.

Herbert Stein, The Fiscal Revolution in America.

Edward Tufte, Political Control of the Economy.

Consult readings for week of September 1.