This course examines the development of modern American social thought, a broad category including philosophy, law, literature, art, music, and political theory since the Civil War. Nearly all of the required readings are from primary sources; lectures and recommended readings will provide historical and biographical background and deal with issues not covered in the readings. Discussion sections will meet once a week and will focus primarily on the readings and the materials on the website. Almost all of the readings are available in the Coop as well as on reserve. Readings designated with an asterisk are included in a course pack that all students in the course must purchase. Finally, throughout the semester you are advised to consult the relevant short essays on the authors whose work you are reading in A Companion to American Thought, ed. Richard Wightman Fox and James T. Kloppenberg, on reserve.

In general, all class meetings will include both lecture and discussion. For that reason you must do all of the reading on time. In part to help you achieve that goal, you will be required to write three papers: the first, 4-6 pages long, is due on Monday, October 3; the second, 5-7 pages long, is due on Monday, November 14; and the third, 6-8 pages long, is due Thursday, December 8.

The grades of papers turned in after the time specified on the syllabus will be lowered one level for each day they are late (e.g., a grade of B becomes a B- if one day late, a C+ if two days late, etc.). These writing assignments are intended to encourage you to read carefully and develop your capacity to think critically and express yourself clearly.

Part one of the mid-term exam and the final exam will include five paragraph-long passages taken from the readings, which you will be asked to identify and discuss critically. Part two of the mid-term exam will be one in-class essay; part two of the final exam will include two essay questions, one handed out in advance. Grades in the course will be determined as follows: mid-term exam, 10%; first paper, 10%; second paper, 15%; third paper, 20%; final exam, 25%; and participation in class discussions, 20%. As should be apparent, this is not intended to be an introductory course. A good background in American history is desirable; a serious commitment to the study of difficult ideas is essential.

Prof. Kloppenberg will hold office hours on Thursdays 4:00-5:30. To schedule an appointment, contact Elena Palladino at epalladino@fas.harvard.edu

If you have a documented disability, please see Prof. Kloppenberg immediately.


2. Tu 9-6: Victorian America and the Challenge of Darwinism
   David Hollinger and Charles Capper, eds., Preface and Introduction to The American Intellectual Tradition, 4th ed., vol. 2 (hereafter cited asAIT), xi-xiii, 3-4
   Asa Gray, “Review of Darwin’s Origin of Species,” 6-11
   Charles Peirce, "The Fixation of Belief," in AIT, 5-15
   *Thomas Haskell, "Responsibility, Convention, and the Role of Ideas"
3. Th 9-8: The Gilded Age and Popular Protest
   - William Graham Sumner, "Sociology," in AIT, 26-35
   - Lester Frank Ward, "Mind as a Social Factor," in AIT, 42-50
   - Edward Bellamy, _Looking Backward_, Preface, chapters 1-7, 12, 14, 18, 22, 25, 28, and Postscript

4. Tu 9-13: From Romanticism to Realism
   *Charles Eliot Norton, "American Political Ideas"
   *Walt Whitman, _Democratic Vistas_, selections
   *Stephen Crane, "An Episode of War"

5. Th 9-15: The Frontier and the White City
   *H. H. Jackson, _A Century of Dishonor_, selection
   *Chief Joseph, "Chief Joseph's Own Story"
   Frederick Jackson Turner, "Significance of the Frontier," in AIT, 60-68

6. Tu 9-20: The Emerald City and the Rise of Social Science
   *The Populist Party Platform of 1892
   Thorstein Veblen, _The Theory of the Leisure Class_, chapters 1-4, 6-7

7. Th 9-22: From the Cult of True Womanhood to the New Woman
   Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "The Solitude of Self," and "The Woman's Bible," in AIT, 55-59
   Charlotte Perkins Gilman, _Women and Economics_, selection in AIT, 96-102
   *Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper'"
   Thorstein Veblen, _The Theory of the Leisure Class_, chapters 13-14

8. Tu 9-27: William James and Pragmatism
   *William James, "Robert Gould Shaw, An Oration"

9. Th 9-29: Race, Ethnicity, and Cosmopolitanism
   W. E. B. DuBois, _The Souls of Black Folk_, chapters 1, 2, 3, 9, 13, 14
   Ralph Ellison, _Invisible Man_, chapters 1-7

*FIRST ESSAYS DUE BY 2:00 P.M. MONDAY, OCTOBER 3*

10. Tu 10-4: Progressive Reform, the Social Gospel, and Social Settlements
    Jane Addams, _Twenty Years at Hull House_, chapters 2, 4-10, 18
    *Walter Rauschenbusch, _Christianity and the Social Crisis_, selection

11. Th 10-6: Progressive Education and Democracy
    *John Dewey, _Political Writings_, pp. 59-76, 110-124
John Dewey, "Philosophy and Democracy," in AIT, 208-216

12. Tu 10-8: The Transformation of American Law
   Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "Natural Law," in AIT, 204-207
   *Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., "The Path of the Law," "A Soldier's Faith"
   *Louis D. Brandeis, Brandeis on Democracy, 25-36, 51-66, 94-102

   Walter Lippmann, Drift and Mastery, Intro. & chapters 1-3, 8-10, 13-16
   Randolph Bourne, “Trans-National America,” "Twilight of Idols," in AIT, 177-194

14. Tu 10-18: Varieties of Modernism and Anti-modernism
   *Gertrude Stein, The Making of Americans, selection from Introduction
   Henry Adams, The Education of Henry Adams, chapters 1, 4, 22, 25, 31, 35

15. Th 10-20: Hypochondria of the Soul and the Search for Community
   *Walter Lippmann, Public Opinion, selection
   *John Dewey, The Public and Its Problems, selection
   Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, chapters 8-17

16. Tu 10-27: Debating Democracy
   John Dewey, Liberalism and Social Action
   *Reinhold Niebuhr, "The Pathos of Liberalism"
   *Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1944 State of the Union Address, view on youtube

17. Tu 10-18: MID-TERM EXAM

18. Tu 11-1: The Vital Center
   Whittaker Chambers, Witness, in AIT, 325-337
   John Courtney Murray, We Hold These Truths, in AIT, 364-371
   Daniel Bell, "The End of Ideology in the West," in AIT, 372-378

19. Th 11-3: Race and Civil Rights
   Gunnar Myrdal, An American Dilemma, selection in AIT, 276-284
   Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," selection in AIT, 475-482
   Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet," view on youtube

20. Tu 11-8: Race, Modernism, and Identity
    Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, chapters 18-25 and epilogue

21. Th 11-10: Art, Mass Culture, and Cultural Criticism
    Clement Greenberg, "Avant-Garde and Kitsch," in AIT, 257-269
    *Robert Lowell, "For the Union Dead"
    *Allen Ginsburg, "A Supermarket in California"
**SECOND ESSAYS DUE BY 2:00 P.M. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

22. Tu 11-15: New Left, New Right
   *Students for a Democratic Society, The Port Huron Statement*
   Ayn Rand, “Man’s Rights,” in AIT, 411-416
   Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*, selection in AIT, 401-410
   Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, selection in AIT, 490-499

23. Th 11-17: Post-modernism
   T.S. Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, selection in AIT, 458-466
   *Clifford Geertz, Interpretation of Cultures*, selection
   John Rawls, “The Idea of an Overlapping Consensus,” in AIT, 544-561
   Richard Rorty, *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*, viii-95, 189-198

24. Tu 11-22: Feminism Reborn
   Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, selection in AIT, 467-474
   *Judith Butler, Gender Trouble*, selection
   *Joan Williams, Unbending Gender*, Preface, Introduction, chapters 2, 8

25. Th 11-29: Multi-culturalism and Cosmopolitanism
   David Hollinger, *Postethnic America*, 3rd ed., entire
   Henry Louis Gates, "Loose Canons," in AIT, 572-584

26. Tu 12-1: Recent American Social and Political Thought
   Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," in AIT, 579-603
   *Barack Obama, Dreams from My Father*, chapters 1-4, Epilogue

***THIRD ESSAYS DUE BY 2:00 P.M. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8***
Recommended Reading

Students wishing to do further reading should begin by consulting the excellent discussions of secondary sources throughout Hollinger and Capper, The American Intellectual Tradition; at the end of each essay in Richard Wightman Fox and James T. Kloppenberg, eds., A Companion to American Thought (1995, 1998); and in the notes to the articles in Theodore Porter and Dorothy Ross, eds., The Cambridge History of Science, vol. 7, The Modern Social Sciences (2003). The best sources for current work in the field of modern American intellectual history are the journals Modern Intellectual History and Journal of the History of Ideas. The following list of recommended reading is keyed to the units in History 1330.


   Ronald L. Numbers and John Stenhouse, eds., Desseminating Darwinism: The Role of Place, Race, Religion, and Gender (1999).


   Thomas Haskell, The Emergence of Professional Social Science: The American Social Science Association and the Nineteenth-Century Crisis of Authority, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).


   Howard Brick, Daniel Bell and the Decline of Intellectual Radicalism: Social Theory and Political Reconciliation in the 1940s (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1986).


   Alan Nadel, Invisible Criticism: Ralph Ellison and the American Canon (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1988).

   Mark Krupnick, Lionel Trilling and the Fate of Cultural Criticism (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1986).


