This semester we will read and discuss a wide range of recent books and essays in American intellectual and cultural history from the Colonial Era to the present. The objective is both to survey recent work on topics of interest to historians of ideas and culture and to explore the various methodologies, approaches, and types of evidence intellectual and cultural historians employ. (Note: If you believe that Richard A. Wines, Fertilizer in America (1985) should be on this reading list, perhaps you should consider another seminar.)

Weekly Short Reviews. At our first meeting (Mon., Sept. 11), each student will choose a book or article to read for each week from the lists attached. (Each student's cumulative choices should result in about a 50-50 mix of books and articles.) Each student will then write a 2-2 1/2 page essay on each week's reading and make sufficient Xerox copies for distribution to the full class, plus two copies for the instructor. (One of these copies will be returned the following week with comments.) These papers should be 500-600 word critical reviews such as one might write for the American Historical Review. They should concisely summarize the argument or main themes of the work; discuss the organization and use of evidence; and critically assess strengths and weaknesses.

Longer Paper. One of these reviews should be expanded into a longer paper of 8-10 pages in which the analytical and critical discussion is enlarged and deepened. (The essays in Reviews in American History might serve as a model for this paper.) This essay need not involve outside research or reading. This longer paper may be submitted at any time during the semester. It must be turned in, together with any shorter reviews still due, no later than Fri., 12/15.

Oral Reports and Class Discussion. At each class meeting, three 10-minute oral reports will be presented, following a schedule to be worked out at the first meeting. These reports should summarize and critically evaluate the work, and suggest what it contributes (or fails to contribute) to our historical understanding. After each report, another designated student will comment for about 5 minutes on the report and raise questions about any matters left unclear in the report. We will then have 20 minutes for general class discussion of the report. Active discussion participation by all seminar students is expected.

Book and Article Availability. Most of these books and journals should be available in Memorial or the History Library. If you cannot locate a book or journal, contact Prof. Boyer at once to arrange for a loan of his copy, or for an alternative assignment.

Office Hours. Mon., 3-5, Hum. 4131.
Abbreviations:

AQ = American quarterly
AHR = American Historical Review
JAH = Journal of American History
WMQ = William and Mary Quarterly

Week 2 (Sept. 18) - The Seventeenth Century

T.H. Breen, THE CHARACTER OF A GOOD RULER: ... PURITAN POLITICAL IDEAS IN NEW ENGLAND (1970)
Norman Fiering, MORAL PHILOSOPHY AT 17TH CENTURY HARVARD: A DISCIPLINE IN TRANSITION (1981)
David D. Hall, WORLDS OF WONDER, DAYS OF JUDGMENT: POPULAR RELIGIOUS BELIEF IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND (1989)

Week 3 (Sept. 25) - The Eighteenth Century


Richard Bushman, *FROM PURITAN TO YANKEE: CHARACTER AND SOCIAL ORDER IN CONNECTICUT, 1690-1765* (1967)


Week 4 (Oct. 2) - The Antebellum Era (I): Political and Social Thought: Reform

Thomas Bender, TOWARD AN URBAN VISION: IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICA (1980)
Robert Berkhofer, THE WHITE MAN'S INDIAN (1978)
Nancy Cott, THE BONDS OF WOMANHOOD: "WOMAN'S SPHERE" IN NEW ENGLAND, 1780-1835 (1977)
Lawrence W. Levine, BLACK CULTURE AND BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS: AFRO-AMERICAN FOLK THOUGHT FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM (1977)
Daniel T. Rodgers, CONTESTED TRUTHS: KEYWORDS IN AMERICAN POLITICS SINCE INDEPENDENCE (1987)
Carl Siracusa, A MECHANICAL PEOPLE: PERCEPTIONS OF THE INDUSTRIAL ORDER IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1815-1860 (1979)
Leonard I. Sweet, BLACK IMAGES OF AMERICA, 1794-1870 (1976)
Anne Taylor, VISIONS OF HARMONY: A STUDY IN 19TH CENTURY MILLENARIANISM (1987)

Amy S. Lang, "Slavery and Sentimentalism: The Strange Career of Augustine St. Clair [character in UNCLE TOM'S CABIN], WOMEN'S STUDIES, 12 (1986), 31-54.
Anne Scott, "Women's Perspective on the Patriarchy in the 1850s," JAH, June 1974
Week 5 (Oct. 9) - Antebellum Era (II): Culture, Religion, Literature, Science

Nina Baym, NOVELS, READERS, AND REVIEWERS: RESPONSES TO FICTION IN ANTEBELLUM AMERICA (1984)
Sarah Elbert, A HUNGER FOR HOME: LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S PLACE IN AMERICAN CULTURE (1987)
Joseph J. Ellis, AFTER THE REVOLUTION: PROFILES OF EARLY AMERICAN CULTURE (1979)
Lawrence J. Friedman, INVENTION OF THE PROMISED LAND (1975). Patriotic literature
Karen Halpin, CONFIDENCE MEN AND PAINTED WOMEN: A STUDY OF MIDDLE CLASS CULTURE IN AMERICA 1830-1870 (1983)
Joel Porte, EMERSON AND THOREAU: TRANSCENDENTALISTS IN CONFLICT (1968)
Anne C. Rose, TRANSCENDENTALISM AS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT (1981)
R. Jackson Wilson, FIGURES OF SPEECH: AMERICAN WRITERS AND THE LITERARY MARKETPLACE FROM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO EMILY DICKINSON (1989)

Mac E. Barrick, "The Log Cabin as Cultural Symbol," MATERIAL CULTURE, Spring 1986
Susan Juster, "'In a Different Voice,' Male and Female Narratives of Conversion in Post-Revolutionary America," AQ, March 1989.
Week 6 (Oct. 16) - The Gilded Age

Robert Bannister, SOCIAL DARWINISM (1979)
Martha Banta, IMAGINING AM. WOMEN: IDEAS AND IDEALS IN CULTURAL HIST. (1987)
Gunther Barth, CITY PEOPLE: THE RISE OF MODERN CITY CULTURE IN NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICA (1980)
Mary O. Furner, ADVOCACY AND OBJECTIVITY: A CRISIS IN THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE, 1865-1905 (1975)
Thomas L. Haskell, THE EMERGENCE OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE: THE AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.... (1977)
Mary Hill, CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN (1980)
William R. Hutchinson, THE MODERNISM IMPULSE IN AMERICAN PROTESTANTISM (1976)
Albert McLean, AMERICAN VAUDEVILLE AS RITUAL (1965)
George Marsden, FUNDAMENTALISM AND AMERICAN CULTURE (1980).
Daniel T. Rodgers, THE WORK ETHIC IN INDUSTRIAL AMERICA (1978)
Clifford H. Scott, Lester Frank Ward (1976)
Edward A. White, SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN AMERICAN THOUGHT: THE IMPACT OF NATURALISM (1952)

Week 7 (Oct. 30) - THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Bruce Clayton, FORGOTTEN PROPHET: THE LIFE OF RANDOLPH BOURNE (1985)
Peter Conn, IDEOLOGY AND IMAGINATION IN AMERICA, 1898-1917 (1984)
Howard M. Feinstein, BECOMING WILLIAM JAMES (1984)
Irving Howe, SOCIALISM IN AMERICA (1985)
Daniel J. Kevles, IN THE NAME OF EUGENICS (1985)
Idus Newby, JIM CROW'S DEFENSE; ANTI-NEGRO THOUGHT IN AMERICA, 1900-1930 (1965)
Rosalind Rosenberg, BEYOND SEPARATE SPHERES: INTELLECTUAL ROOTS OF MODERN FEMINISM (1982)
Laura Shapiro, PERFECTION SALAD: WOMEN AND COOKING AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY (1986)
H. Standish Thayer, MEANING AND ACTION: A STUDY OF AMERICAN PRAGMATISM (1973)
Philip Wiener, EVOLUTION AND THE FOUNDERS OF PRAGMATISM (1972)

Jules Chametzky, "Regional Literature and Ethnic Realities," ANTIOCH REVIEW, Fall 1981.
Hamilton Cravens, "The Abandonment of Evolutionary Social Theory in America," AMERICAN STUDIES, Fall 1971. [Sociological theory, 1890-1920].
Week 8 (Nov. 6) - THE TWENTIES


Nancy F. Cott, THE GROUNDING OF MODERN FEMINISM (1987)


James Hoopes, VAN Wyck BROOKS: IN SEARCH OF AMERICAN CULTURE (1977)

Nathan Huggins, HARLEM RENAISSANCE (1971).


Cecilia Tichi, SHIFTING GEARS: TECHNOLOGY, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE IN MODERNIST AMERICA (1987)


Week 9 (Nov. 13) - THE 1930s

AND ITS CIRCLE, 1934-1945 (1986)
Clayton Koppes and Gregory D. Black, HOLLYWOOD GOES TO WAR: HOW POLITICS,
PROFITS, AND PROPAGANDA SHAPED WORLD WAR II MOVIES (1987)
Donald Meyer, THE PROTESTANT SEARCH FOR POLITICAL REALISM, 1919-1941 (1960)
Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz, DEMOCRATIC VISTAS, POST OFFICES, AND
PUBLIC ART IN THE NEW DEAL (1984)
Richard H. Pells, RADICAL VISIONS AND AMERICAN DREAMS: CULTURE AND SOCIAL
THOUGHT IN THE DEPRESSION YEARS (1973)
William Stott, DOCUMENTARY EXPRESSION AND THIRTIES AMERICA (1973)
Alan Trachtenberg, READING AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS!: IMAGES AS HISTORY,
MATTHEW BRADY TO WALKER EVANS (1989)

Richard Wright and his successors).
Michael Denning, "Class and Culture: Reflections on the Work of Warren
Erika L. Doss, "Borrowing Regionalism: Advertising's Use of American Art
Walter A. Jackson, "The Making of a Social Science Classic: Gunnar Myrdal's
An American Dilemma," PERSPECTIVES IN AMERICAN HISTORY, New Series,
Fred Matthews, "Role Models? The Continuing Relevance of the 'New York
Norman Holmes Pearson, "The Nazi-Soviet Pact and the End of a Dream," in
Darden A. Pyton, "Gone With the Wind and the Southern Cultural Awakening,"
VIRGINIA QUARTERLY REVIEW, Autumn 1986.
Joan Shelley Rubin, "Self, Culture, and Self-Culture in Modern America: The
Robert W. Rydell, "The Fan Dance of Science: American World’s Fairs in the Great
DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMERICAN CULTURE (2nd edn., 1983).
Week 10 (Nov. 20) - World War II and the 1950s

Howard Brick, DANIEL BELL AND THE DECLINE OF INTELLECTUAL RADICALISM (1980)
John P. Diggins, UP FROM COMMUNISM: CONSERVATIVE ODYSSEYS IN AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY (1975)
Richard W. Fox, REINHOLD NIEBUHR (1985)
James Gilbert, A CYCLE OF OUTRAGE: AMERICA'S REACTION TO THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT IN THE 1950s (1986)
Irving Louis Horowitz, C. WRIGHT MILLS: AN AMERICAN UTOPIAN (1983)
Ronald Lora, CONSERVATIVE MINDS IN AMERICA (1971)
Elaine Tyler May, HOMeward BOUND: AMERICAN FAMILIES IN THE COLD WAR ERA (1988)
Ellen Schrecker, NO IVORY TOWER: MCCARThYISM AND THE UNIVERSITIES (1986)

Donald Fleming, "Roots of the New Conservation Movement," PERSPECTIVES IN AMERICAN HISTORY, New Series, 6 (1972), 7-91.
Week 11 (Nov. 27) - The Sixties

Morris Dickstein, GATES OF EDEN: AMERICAN CULTURE IN THE SIXTIES (1977)
Todd Gitlin, THE SIXTIES (1987)
George H. Nash, THE CONSERVATIVE INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENT IN AMERICA SINCE 1945 (1976)

Allen J. Matusow, THE UNRAVELING OF AMERICA: A HISTORY OF LIBERALISM IN THE 1960s (1984), Chaps. 10 & 11 ("The Rise and Fall of a Counterculture,
and "The Rise and Fall of the New Left").
Maurice A. Mierau, "Carnival and Jeremiad: Mailer’s The Armies of the Night," CANADIAN REVIEW OF AMERICAN STUDIES, 17 (Fall 1986), 317-326.
Week 12 (Dec. 4) - THE CONTEMPORARY ERA - I: POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT

Daniel Bell, THE CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS OF CAPITALISM (1976)
Hester Eisenstein, CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THOUGHT (1983)
Irving Kristol, REFLECTIONS OF A NEOCONSERVATIVE (1983)
Alan Wolfe, THE LIMITS OF LEGITIMACY (1977)
Garry Wills, REAGAN'S AMERICA: INNOCENTS AT HOME (1987)

Week 13 (Dec. 11) - THE CONTEMPORARY ERA, II: CULTURAL TRENDS

Mary F. Belenky, WOMEN'S WAYS OF KNOWING: THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF, VOICE, AND MIND (1986)
Peter Clecak, AMERICA'S QUEST FOR THE IDEAL SELF: DISSENT AND FULFILLMENT IN THE 60s AND 70s (1983)
E.D. Hirsch Jr., CULTURAL LITERACY (1987)
Neil Postman, AMUSING OURSELVES TO DEATH (1985)
Richard Quebedeaux, THE WORLDLY EVANGELICALS (1978)
Richard Rorty, PHILOSOPHY AND THE MIRROR OF NATURE (1979)
Joseph Weitzenbaum, COMPUTER POWER AND HUMAN REASON (1976)


Lawrence Veysey, "Intellectual History and the New Social History," Higham and Conkings, Eds., NEW DIRECTIONS IN AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY.