

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester I Year 1982-83

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
901	Political Economy in 20th Century America	Mr. Hollingsworth

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to analyze the distribution of power in twentieth century America. It (1) will analyze the social and political institutional arrangements which have emerged in the United States since 1890, and (2) will analyze how these institutional arrangements have influenced various types of social and economic policies which have been implemented since the Second World War.

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.

LECTURES

None

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Each student is to write two papers (10 to 15 typed pages) based on a book from the assigned readings. The first paper is due by October 8 and the second no later than December 3.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be based on the two papers and class participation.

REQUIRED READINGS

Students will read from a list provided by the instructor. Students will be expected to read at least one book weekly but will be encouraged to read more.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester 1, 1982-1983

History 901

Mr. Hollingsworth

Political Economy in Twentieth Century America

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 8 and the second no later than December 3.

The weekly topics and readings are as follows:

Week of September 3: 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 10: 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 17: 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 24: The Structure of the Working Class in Twentieth Century America.

David Brody, Steelworkers in America.

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

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

Week of October 1: The Changing Structure of the American Corporation.

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 8: Political Structure and Public Policy During the Progressive Era.

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 15: The Politics of the 1920s.

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 22: The New Deal and American Interest Group Politics.

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

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

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 October 29: The Emergence of a Welfare State.

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

Consult: James O'Connor, The Fiscal Crisis of the State.

Week of November 5: Medical Care in Twentieth Century America.

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

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

Week of November 12: Changing Dimensions of Power in Twentieth Century America.

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

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

Week of November 19: Further Perspectives on Changing Dimensions of Power.

Walter Dean Burnham, Critical Elections and the Mainstream of American Politics.

Carl Harris, Political Power in Birmingham.

Consult: Walter Dean Burnham, "The End of American Party Politics," Transaction, Vol. 7 (December, 1969).

Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

J. Rogers Hollingsworth and Ellen Jane Hollingsworth, Dimensions in Urban History: Historical and Social Science Perspectives on Middle-Size American Cities, Chapters 1 and 4.

Week of December 3: Income Distribution and Poverty in America.

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 10: The Role of Government in Shaping Economic Performance.

Herbert Stein, The Fiscal Revolution in America.

Edward Tufte, Political Control of the Economy.

Consult readings for week of September 3.