

Semester II Year 1979

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
H. 432	History of American Thought	Mr. Conkin

COURSE DESCRIPTION

My emphasis will be upon basic beliefs held by Americans. More specifically, in this semester I will focus upon science and philosophy for the period since 1850. An original unit will take Darwin as a point of departure, but survey several facets of thought up through 1900. A second unit will focus almost entirely on American philosophy, including several idealists but most of all the three most important pragmatists. The last unit will survey several trends since 1930. I will dip back into the physical sciences, note new philosophical schools, and include material from criticism and religion.

This is a demanding course. Much of the material will be unfamiliar to students, some of it is very technical, and the readings are not easy. But I believe it is a very challenging course, the type that students feel very good about when they have completed it.

LECTURES

Three each week, of 50 minutes each. Also, one weekly discussion section.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two outside essays. Three bluebook exams, or one for each unit.

GRADING SYSTEM

The one prescribed by the university--A through F.

REQUIRED READINGS

I have five source books listed, as required, but most students also feel a need for more extensive reading, particularly in highly recommended secondary materials.

University of Wisconsin
Department of History
Semester II, 1977-78

History 622

Reading Guide

Paul Conkin

Reference Works and Texts:

Sidney Ahlstrom, A Religious History of the American People
Paul K. Conkin, Puritans and Pragmatists
Merle Curti, Growth of American Thought
Elizabeth Flower and Murray Murphey, A History of Philosophy in America
Charles Frankel, ed., The Golden Age of American Philosophy
Stow Persons, American Minds
Morton G. White, ed., Documents in the History of American Philosophy

Unit One: In the Wake of Darwin

I. Required Sources:

Philip Appleson, ed., Darwin, A Norton Critical Edition

II. Helpful Supplements

Brooks Adams, Law of Civilization and Decay
Henry Adams, The Education of Henry Adams
S. E. Barnett, ed., A Century of Darwin
Paul F. Boller, American Thought in Transition: The Impact of
Evolutionary Naturalism, 1863-1900
John Fiske, Darwinism
Outlines of Cosmic Philosophy, Vol. I
John C. Greene, Darwinism and the Modern World View
The Death of Adam
Richard Hofstadter, Social Darwinism and American Thought
Gail Kennedy, ed., Evolution and Religion
Joseph LeConte, Evolution, its Nature, its Evidence, and its Relation
to Religious Thought
James McCosh, The Religious Aspects of Evolution
Charles S. Peirce, Philosophical Writings, ed. by Buchler
Stow Persons, ed., Evolutionary Thought in America
Josiah Royce, The Spirit of Modern Philosophy
Cynthia E. Russett, Darwin in America, The Intellectual Response, 1863-1912
R. J. Wilson, ed., Darwinism and the American Intellectuals
Chauncey Wright, Philosophical Writings

Unit Two: Varieties of Pragmatism

I. Required Sources:

Max Fisch, ed., Classic American Philosophers
William James, The Will to Believe and other Essays

II. Helpful Supplements

John Dewey, Art as Experience
A Common Faith
Democracy and Education
Experience and Nature
The Quest for Certainty

William James, Essays in Pragmatism
Essays in Radical Empiricism
Principles of Psychology, 2 vols.
A Pluralistic Universe
Varieties of Religious Experience

Gail Kennedy and Milton Knovitz, eds., American Pragmatism
David W. Marcell, Progress and Pragmatism
Ralph E. Perry, The Thought and Character of William James, 2 vols.
Darnell Tucker, The Chicago Pragmatists
Philip Wiener, Evolution and the Founders of Pragmatism
Morton G. White, Social Thought in America
E. J. Wilson, In Quest of Community

Unit Three: The Flux of Modernity

I. Required Sources:

Reinhold Niebuhr, Moral Man and Immoral Society
Twelve Southerners, I'll Take my Stand

II. Supplements:

A. d'Abre, The Evolution of Scientific Thought from Newton to Einstein
L. K. Barnett, The Universe and Dr. Einstein
Charles C. Alexander, Nationalism in American Thought, 1930-1945
William Barrett, Irrational Man
Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents
Werner Heisenberg, Physics and Philosophy
David Hollinger, Morris R. Cohen and the Scientific Ideal
Joseph W. Krutch, Human Nature and the Human Condition
The Measure of Man
The Modern Temper
R. Alan Lawson, The Failure of Independent Liberalism, 1930-1941
Walter Lippmann, The Public Philosophy
Henry F. May, End of American Innocence
Donald Meyer, The Protestant Search for Political Realism, 1919-1941
Roderick Nash, The Nervous Generation: American Thought, 1917-1929
Reinhold Niebuhr, The Nature and Destiny of Man, 2 vols.
David Riesman, The Lonely Crowd
George Santayana, The Last Puritan
Life of Reason, 5 vols.
Realms of Being, 3 vols.
Timothy L. S. Sprigge, Santayana, an Examination of his Philosophy
David Van Tassel, American Thought in the Twentieth Century
Alfred N. Whitehead, Science and the Modern World
Morton G. White, ed., Age of Analysis