

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	HIST 7321 001
<i>Course Title</i>	American Intellectual History
<i>Term</i>	Spring 2023
<i>Days &amp; Times</i>	M 10:00-12:45 JO 3.536

### **Professor Contact Information**

<i>Professor</i>	Wickberg
<i>Office Phone</i>	6222
<i>Email Address</i>	wickberg@utdallas.edu
<i>Office Hours</i>	W 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

MA/PhD Students in AHT.

### **Course Description**

This course is a PhD-level overview of American thought from the seventeenth century to the present, with a focus on philosophy, political thought, and social thought. We will be reading a selective sample of recent scholarly literature on American intellectual history. Topics covered include: Puritanism, the American Enlightenment, evangelical religion, romanticism, feminism, abolition and pro-slavery thought, Darwinism, natural science and religion, modernism and antimodernism, cold war liberalism and its critics, race and gender ideologies, the rise of social science, pragmatism, forms of relativism, postmodernisms. This course lays the foundation for students who are interested in pursuing a PhD exam field in American intellectual history.

As an overview, the course generally sacrifices depth for breadth; it seeks to put students on a basis of familiarity with a broad range of thought and issues, but does not provide an in-depth examination of a specific issue or problem. Students will be able to explore specific topics in more depth with their papers. One of the secondary purposes of the course is to give students a working understanding of the approaches to the past characteristic of intellectual history as a discipline. Students will learn the variety of ways in which scholars approach the thought and thinkers of the past, how they use sources, what kinds of argumentation and modes of writing are characteristic of intellectual history. In particular, the purpose of

reading substantial secondary sources is to get students to understand how to think about ideas historically, rather than in other ways, such as philosophically or instrumentally.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will analyze and interpret a significant body of thought in American intellectual history.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of historiography of American intellectual history.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

#### *Required Texts*

Casey Nelson Blake, Daniel Borus, and Howard Brick, At the Center: American Thought and Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century  
978-1538158432

Brandon Byrd, The Black Republic: African Americans and the Fate of Haiti  
978-0812225198

Mark Greif, The Age of the Crisis of Man  
978-0691173290

David Hall, The Puritans: A Transatlantic History  
978-0691203379

Kimberly Hamlin, From Eve to Evolution: Darwin, Science, and Women's Rights in Gilded Age America  
978-0226324777

Sarah Igo, The Known Citizen  
978-0674244795

Gregory Jones-Katz, Deconstruction: An American Institution  
978-0226536057

Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, American Nietzsche  
978-0226006765

Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture  
978-0674064362

Caroline Winterer, American Enlightenments  
978-0300192575

Peter Wirzbiki, Fighting for the Higher Law: Black and White Transcendentalists  
Against Slavery  
978-0812252910

Additional materials on course electronic reserve as indicated in the schedule of readings.

The umbrella organizations for historians are:

The American Historical Association (AHA)  
<https://www.historians.org>

The Organization of American History (OAH)  
<https://www.oah.org>

Students may follow the most significant recent scholarship in the flagship journals published by the AHA and OAH:

The American Historical Review  
The Journal of American History

Students interested in American intellectual history, may wish to familiarize themselves with the following:

Journals:

Modern Intellectual History  
Journal of the History of Ideas (blog at  
<https://jhiblog.org>)  
Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences  
American Literary History  
Contributions to the History of Concepts

Professional Organizations:

Society for U.S. Intellectual History  
<https://s-usih.org>

African-American Intellectual History Society  
<https://www.aaihs.org>

Society for the Advancement of American  
Philosophy (SAAP)  
<https://american-philosophy.org>

## **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

*Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates*

Week I            Monday January 23

Sarah Igo, "Toward a Free-Range Intellectual History"; Angus Burgin, "*New Directions, Then and Now*," both in [The Worlds of American Intellectual History](#), pp. 324-364; Brandon Byrd, "The Rise of African-American Intellectual History," [Modern Intellectual History](#) 18.3 (September 2021): 833-864

Recommended Reading

John Higham and Paul Conkin, eds., [New Directions in American Intellectual History](#)

Joel Isaac et al., [The Worlds of American Intellectual History](#)

Andrew Hartman and Ray Haberski, eds., [American Labyrinth: Intellectual History for Complicated Times](#)

"Forum: The Present and Future of American Intellectual History," [Modern Intellectual History](#) 9 (April 2012): 149-248

Darren McMahon and Samuel Moyn, eds., [Rethinking Modern European Intellectual History](#)

Daniel Wickberg, "Intellectual History vs. the Social History of Intellectuals," [Rethinking History](#) 5.3 (2001)

Daniel Wickberg, "In the Environment of Ideas: Arthur Lovejoy and the History of Ideas as a Form of Cultural History," [Modern Intellectual History](#) 11.2 (August 2014)

Allan Megill, [Historical Knowledge, Historical Error: A Contemporary Guide to Practice](#)

Sarah Maza, [Thinking About History](#)

Week II            Monday January 30

David Hall, [The Puritans: A Transatlantic History](#)

Recommended Reading:

Perry Miller, [Errand Into the Wilderness](#)

Perry Miller, [The New England Mind: The Seventeenth Century](#)

Sacvan Bercovitch, [The American Jeremiad](#)

Theodore Dwight Bozeman, [To Live Ancient Lives: The Primitivist Dimension in Puritanism](#)

Sarah Rivett, [The Science of the Soul in Colonial New England](#)

Alan Simpson, [Puritanism in Old and New England](#)

David Hall, [Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England](#)

Carla Gardina Pestana, [Protestant Empire: Religion and the Making of the British Atlantic World](#)

George Marsden, Jonathan Edwards: A Life  
Norman Fiering, Moral Philosophy at Seventeenth-Century Harvard  
Stephen Foster, The Long Argument: English Puritanism and the Shaping of New England Culture, 1570-1700  
David F. Holland, Sacred Borders: Continuing Revelations and Canonical Restraint in Early America  
Mark Peterson, The Price of Redemption: The Spiritual Economy of Puritan New England  
Douglas Winiarski, Darkness Falls on the Land of Light: Experiencing Religious Awakenings in Eighteenth-Century New England

Week III      Monday February 6

Caroline Winterer, American Enlightenments

Recommended Reading:

Henry F. May, The Enlightenment in America  
Robert Ferguson, The American Enlightenment, 1750-1820  
Donald Meyer, The Democratic Enlightenment  
Bernard Bailyn, Ideological Origins of the American Revolution  
Gordon Wood, The Creation of the American Republic  
Joyce Appleby, Republicanism and Liberalism in the Historical Imagination  
Eric Slauter, The State as a Work of Art: The Cultural Origins of the Constitution  
Jack Rakove, Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution  
Daniel Rodgers, "Republicanism: the Career of a Concept," Journal of American History 79.1 (June 1992): 11-38  
Eran Shalev, Rome Reborn on Western Shores: Historical Imagination and the Creation of the American Republic  
James Kloppenberg, Toward Democracy: The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought  
Susan Scott Parish, American Curiosity: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World  
Michael Meranze, Laboratories of Virtue: Punishment, Revolution, and Authority in Philadelphia, 1760-1835  
Sarah Knott, Sensibility and the American Revolution  
David Armitage, The Declaration of Independence: A Global History  
Morton White, Philosophy, The Federalist, and the Constitution  
Richard Sher, The Enlightenment and the Book: Scottish Authors and Their Publishers in Eighteenth-Century Britain, Ireland, and America  
Jonathan Israel, Democratic Enlightenment: Philosophy, Revolution, and Human Rights 1750-1790  
Ruth Bloch, Visionary Republic: Millennial Themes in American Thought 1756-1800

Robert G. Parkinson, The Common Cause: Creating Race and Nation in the American Revolution

David Sehat, The Myth of American Religious Freedom

Jon Butler, Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People

Nathan Hatch, The Democratization of American Christianity

Claire Rydell Arcenas, America's Philosopher: John Locke in American Intellectual Life

Week IV

Monday February 13

Peter Wirzbiki, Fighting for the Higher Law: Black and White Transcendentalists Against Slavery

John L. Thomas, "Romantic Reform in America, 1815-1865," American Quarterly 17 (1965): 656-81

Robert Abzug, Cosmos Crumbling, chap. 6, pp. 129-62

Recommended Reading

Philip Gura, American Transcendentalism

Barbara L. Packer, The Transcendentalists

Steven Mintz, Moralists and Modernizers: American Pre-Civil War Reformers

Jordan T. Watkins, Slavery and Sacred Texts: The Bible, the Constitution, and Historical Consciousness in Antebellum America

Daniel Walker Howe, The Political Culture of the American Whigs

Daniel Walker Howe, The Unitarian Conscience: Harvard Moral Philosophy 1805-1861

Charles Capper, Margaret Fuller: An American Romantic Life

Charles Capper, "'A Little Beyond': The Problem of the Transcendentalist Movement in American History," Journal of American History 85.2 (September 1998): 502-539

Michael O'Brien, Conjectures of Order: Intellectual Life and the American South, 1810-1860

Robert S. Cox, Body and Soul: A Sympathetic History of American Spiritualism

Christopher Grasso, Skepticism and American Faith: From the Revolution to the Civil War

Eric Schlereth, An Age of Infidels: The Politics of Religious Controversy in the Early United States

Catherine Albanese, A Republic of Mind and Spirit: A Cultural History of American Metaphysical Religion

Caleb McDaniel, The Problem of Democracy in the Age of Slavery

David Blight, Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom

Waldo E. Martin, The Mind of Frederick Douglass

Ethan Kytle, Romantic Reformers and the Antislavery Struggle in the Civil War Era

Drew Gilpin Faust, *A Sacred Circle: The Dilemma of the Intellectual in the Old South, 1840-1860*  
George Frederickson, *The Inner Civil War: Northern Intellectuals and the Crisis of the Union*  
Larry Tise, *Proslavery: A History of the Defense of Slavery in America*  
Mark Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*  
Harry Jaffa, *Crisis in the House Divided*  
Eugene Genovese and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, *The Mind of the Masterclass*  
David Brian Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution*  
David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation*  
Thomas Bender, ed., *The Antislavery Debate*  
Manisha Sinha, *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*  
Ronald Walters, *The Antislavery Appeal: American Abolition After 1830*  
Bruce Dain, *A Hideous Monster of the Mind: American Race Theory in the Early Republic*  
Nicholas Guyatt, *Bind Us Apart: How Enlightened Americans Invented Racial Segregation*  
John Stauffer, *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race*

Jonathan Levy, *Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America*  
Jean-Christophe Agnew, *Worlds Apart: the Market and the Theater in Anglo-American Thought 1550-1750*  
Mary Poovey, *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*  
Joyce Appleby, *The Relentless Revolution: A History of Capitalism*  
Albert Hirschman, *The Passions and the Interests: Political Arguments for Capitalism Before its Triumph*  
Michael Zakim and Gary Kornbluth, eds., *Capitalism Takes Command*  
Michael Zakim, *Accounting for Capitalism: The World the Clerk Made*  
Jeffrey Sklansky, "The Elusive Sovereign: New Intellectual and Social Histories of Capitalism," *Modern Intellectual History* 9.1 (April 2012): 233-48

Week V                      Monday February 20

Kimberly Hamlin, *From Eve to Evolution: Darwin, Science, and Women's Rights in Gilded Age America*

Recommended Reading:

Ruth Bloch, Gender and Morality in Anglo-American Culture, 1650-1800

Mary Kelley, Learning to Stand and Speak: Women, Education, and Public Life

Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America

Sheila Skemp, First Lady of Letters: Judith Sargent Murray and the Struggle for Female Independence

Caroline Winterer, The Mirror of Antiquity: American Women and the Classical Tradition, 1750-1900

Lisa Tetrault, The Myth of Seneca Falls

Nancy Isenberg, Sex and Citizenship in Antebellum America

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America

William Leach, True Love and Perfect Union: The Feminist Reform of Sex and Society

Jean Fagan Yellin, Women and Sisters: Antislavery Feminists in American Culture

Ellen Carol DuBois and Richard Candida Smith, eds., Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Feminist as Thinker

Kathryn Kish Sklar, Catherine Beecher: A Study in American Domesticity

Linda Kerber, "Separate Spheres, Female Worlds, Woman's Place: The Rhetoric of Women's History," Journal of American History 75.1 (June 1988), pp. 9-39

Leslie Butler, "The 'Woman Question' in the Age of Democracy: From Movement History to Problem History," in Worlds of American Intellectual History, pp. 37-56

Week VI

Monday February 27

Brandon Byrd, The Black Republic: African Americans and the Fate of Haiti

Recommended Reading

David Blight, Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory

Amy Dru Stanley, From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation

Paul Gilroy, The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double-Consciousness

Anthony Appiah, Lines of Descent: W.E.B. DuBois and the Emergence of Identity  
 Shamoan Zamir, Dark Voices: W.E.B. Du Bois and American Thought, 1888-1903  
 Christopher Cameron, Black Freethinkers: A History of African American Secularism  
 Mia Bay, The White Image in the Black Mind: African-American Ideas About White People, 1830-1925  
 Mia Bay et al., eds. Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women  
 Keisha Blain, Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom  
 Sterling Stuckey, Slave Culture: Nationalist Theory and the Foundations of Black America  
 Jonathan Scott Holloway, Confronting the Veil: Abram Harris Jr., E. Franklin Frazier, and Ralph Bunche, 1919-1941  
 Nikhil Singh, Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy  
 Cedric Robinson, Black Marxism: the Making of the Black Radical Tradition  
 Nico Slate, Colored Cosmopolitanism: The Shared Struggle for Freedom in the United States and India  
 Ibram X. Kendi, Stamped from the Beginning  
 George Fredrickson, The Black Image in the White Mind: The Debate on Afro-American Character and Destiny, 1817-1914  
 Winthrop Jordan, White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro 1550-1812  
 Bruce Dain, A Hideous Monster of the Mind: American Race Theory in the Early Republic  
 Nell Irvin Painter, A History of White People  
 Matthew Frye Jacobson, Whiteness of a Different Color  
 Thomas Gossett, Race: The History of an Idea in America  
 Mia Bay, The White Image in the Black Mind

Week VII Monday March 6

No reading. Book review due via E-learning.

SPRING BREAK

Week VIII Monday March 20

Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, American Nietzsche

Recommended Reading

Louis Menand, The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America

James Livingston, Pragmatism and the Political Economy of Cultural Revolution  
Jeffrey Sklansky, The Soul's Economy: Market Society and Selfhood in American Thought, 1820-1920  
Morton White, Social Thought in America: The Revolt Against Formalism  
James Kloppenberg, Uncertain Victory: Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920  
Nancy Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism  
Daniel Borus, American Multiplicity: American Thought and Culture 1900-1920  
Leslie Butler, Critical Americans: Victorian Intellectuals and Transatlantic Liberal Reform  
Francesca Bordogna, William James at the Boundary: Philosophy, Science, and the Geography of Knowledge  
Jackson Lears, No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture 1880-1920  
Mari Jo Buhle, Feminism and Its Discontents: A Century of Struggle with Psychoanalysis

Week IX

Monday March 27  
Sara Igo, The Known Citizen

Recommended Reading:

Warren Susman, Culture as History: The Transformation of American Society in the Twentieth Century  
James Turner, Without God, Without Creed: The Origins of Unbelief in America  
Fred Turner, The Democratic Surround: Multimedia and American Liberalism from World War II to the Psychedelic Sixties  
Edward Purcell, The Crisis of Democratic Theory: Scientific Naturalism and the Problem of Value  
Sarah Igo, The Averaged American: Surveys, Citizens, and the Making of a Mass Public  
Joan Shelley Rubin, The Making of Middlebrow Culture  
Rochelle Gurstein, The Repeal of Reticence: A History of America's Cultural and Legal Struggles over Free Speech, Obscenity, Sexual Liberation, and Modern Art  
Edward de Grazia, Girls Lean Back Everywhere: The Law of Obscenity and the Assault on Genius  
Elizabeth Lunbeck, The Americanization of Narcissism  
Richard King, Race, Culture, and the Intellectuals  
Elazar Barkan, The Retreat of Scientific Racism

Richard Handler, Critics Against Culture: Anthropological Observers of Mass Society

George Stocking, Jr., Race, Culture, and Evolution: Essays in the History of Anthropology

Mark Anderson, From Boas to Black Power

Week X            Monday April 3

Mark Greif, The Age of the Crisis of Man

Recommended Reading

Louis Menand, The Free World: Art and Thought in the Cold War

Richard King, Arendt and America

Andrew Jewett, Science, Democracy, and the American University

Julie Reuben, The Making of the Modern University: Intellectual Transformation and the Marginalization of Morality

Dorothy Ross, The Origins of American Social Science

James Turner, Philology: The Forgotten Origins of the Humanities

David Hollinger, In the American Province

Jamie Cohen-Cole, The Open Mind: Cold War Politics and the Sciences of Human Nature

Hunter Heyck, Age of System: Understanding the Development of Modern Social Science

Daniel Geary, Radical Ambition: C. Wright Mills, the Left, and American Social Thought

Richard Pells, Radical Visions and American Dreams: Culture and Social Thought in the Depression Years

Richard Pells, The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age: American Intellectuals in the 1940s and 1950s

Michael Kimmage, The Conservative Turn: Lionel Trilling, Whittaker Chambers, and the Lessons of Anti-Communism

Robert Westbrook, John Dewey and American Democracy

Joel Isaac, Working Knowledge: Making the Human Sciences from Parsons to Kuhn

Wendy Wall, Inventing the "American Way": The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement

George Cotkin, Existential America

Robert Genter, Late Modernism: Art, Culture, and Politics in Cold War America

Jason Stevens, God-Fearing and Free: A Spiritual History of America's Cold War

Neil Jumonville, Critical Crossings: The New York Intellectuals in Postwar America

David Brown, Richard Hofstadter: An Intellectual Biography

Martin Woessner, Heidegger in America

Week XI Monday April 10

No class meeting: Final paper proposals due via E-Learning

Week XII Monday April 17

Casey Blake, Daniel Borus, and Howard Brick, At the Center: American Thought and Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century

Recommended Reading

Jennifer Burns, Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right

Anne Kornhauser, Debating the American State: Liberal Anxieties and the New Leviathan

Nils Gilman, Mandarins of the Future: Modernization Theory in Cold War America

Daniel Immerwahr, Thinking Small: the United States and the Lure of Community Development

Michael Latham, Modernization as Ideology: American Social Science and "Nation Building" in the Kennedy Era

Alice O'Connor, Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History

Angus Burgin, The Great Persuasion: Reinventing Free Markets since the Depression

Howard Brick, Transcending Capitalism

Eugene Mccarraher, The Enchantments of Mammon: How Capitalism Became the Religion of Modernity

Bruce Kuklick, Fascism Comes to America: A Century of Obsession in Politics and Culture

Glory Liu, Adam Smith's America: How A Scottish Philosopher Became an Icon of American Capitalism

Drew Maciag, Edmund Burke in America: The Contested Carrer of the Father of Modern Conservativism

George Nash, The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America

Week XIII Monday April 24

Gregory Jones-Katz, Deconstruction: An American Institution

Recommended Reading

Kerwin Klein, From History to Theory

Jane Gerhard, Desiring Revolution: Second-wave Feminism and the Rewriting of American Sexual Thought, 1920 to 1982

George Cotkin, Feast of Excess: A Cultural History of the New Sensibility

David Hoeveler, The Postmodern Turn: American Thought and Culture in the 1970s

Week XIV Monday May 1

Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture

Recommended Reading

James Kloppenberg, Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition

Samuel Moyn, The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History

Andrew Hartman, A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars

James Livingston, A World Turned Inside Out: American Thought and Culture at the End of the Twentieth Century

Fred Turner, From Counterculture to Cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the Rise of Digital Utopianism

Molly Worthen, Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism

Lilian Calles Barger, The World Come of Age: An Intellectual History of Liberation Theology

Anthony Chaney, Runaway: Gregory Bateson, the Double Bind, and the Rise of Ecological Consciousness

Daniel Belgrad, The Culture of Feedback

Michael Brown, Hope and Scorn: Eggheads, Experts, and Elites in American Politics

Antti Lepisto, The Rise of Common-Sense Conservatism: The American Right and the Reinvention of the Scottish Enlightenment

Friday May 12

PAPERS DUE @ 1:00 pm via E-Learning

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on class participation, one book review, one oral presentation and a historiography paper of 15-20 pages. Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Participation	40%
Book Review	10%
Oral Presentation	10%
Term Paper	40%

## **Course Policies**

### *Late Work*

It is extremely important that students complete all assigned readings for the discussion dates set in the syllabus. Please make every effort to meet course deadlines. Deadlines for the book review, paper proposal, and final paper are firm.

### *Class Attendance*

Class attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to come to class for reasons of illness, religious holiday, or personal emergency, please let me know. Other absences are not permitted.

### *Classroom Citizenship*

This is a discussion class. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading. Lateness is disruptive, so please make every effort to be on time. Give fellow students and the instructor the courtesy of listening to their ideas. Disagreement and argument are the lifeblood of intellectual work and are encouraged, but please avoid personal remarks and rudeness. My aim is to make all students comfortable and willing to discuss their ideas, but also to challenge students to develop their ideas or defend their claims. Please do not take such challenges personally.

Please consult university policy for information about educational matters and regulations not discussed here. This class will be conducted according to university policies.

## **University Policy**

<http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>