

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of History and Government

HIST 400 American Intellectual History

Instructor: Dr. Karen Cook Bell

Office Hours: Tu/Th 11:00-2:00

Office: MLK 0216

Phone: 301 860-3615

Email: kcookbell@bowiestate.edu

Course Overview

This is a demanding course that provides a window into American historiography. Since we can only scratch the surface of the existing scholarship, my objective is to expose you to numerous historical approaches over a variety of subjects and time periods. The goal is not to master a particular topic. Rather, it is to understand the questions that different kinds of historians ask and the diverse methodologies they use to get at their subjects. The readings cover a mix of older and newer scholarship, with a particular emphasis on more recent works. That focus will allow us to hone in on the topics, themes, and questions that have occupied the last several generations of historians as we get a sense of the current state of the profession. Consequently, we'll pay particular attention to developments over the last thirty years such as: the emergence of social history and its explosion into myriad sub-fields; the rise of what has been called the cultural and literary turn; and the rise of history from the "bottom up" and its new focus on the "agency" of ordinary Americans in shaping historical events.

Course Requirements

Your grade in the course will depend on diligent reading, active participation in class discussion, and strong writing in the form of short essays and a final reflective essay.

Required Textbooks:

Richard Hughes, *Myths America Lives By*, 2003. [Hereafter cited as *MAL*]

**Other readings as assigned included on syllabus schedule.

Competencies Required for Success in the Course

- a. Written and oral communication are both essential.
- b. Analysis and discussion of critical issues and major themes in the history of ideas.
- c. Make interpretations and present those ideas in writing.
- e. Application of historical methods of inquiry during investigations, especially utilizing the philosophies set down by the author of the primary text and other concepts as provided by the professor.

Critical Analysis and Reasoning

- *a. Apply skills in analysis, synthesis and problem solving.
- *b. Apply logical reasoning in the writing of papers.
- *c. Apply organization and sound reasoning in the completion of papers.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Demonstrate competency in writing two page (single spaced) research/synthesis papers with sound reasoning.
3. Evaluate references which are based on sound scholarship (primary and secondary sources).
4. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.
5. Identify sound historical argument.
6. Encourage students to organize their thoughts and to think critically.

Student Expected Outcomes:

1. Write two page synthesis papers of an intellectual idea from the grid in this course outline.
3. Participate in class on the themes provided in this course outline.

Instructional Modes

This course will focus on critical thinking skills. These relate to students' ability to comprehend, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information from a variety of sources. Students will apply these skills to solving problems or answering questions concerning the study of the American historical experience. In the process, students will learn how to relate detailed or factual information within conceptual frameworks. This will be accomplished by asking questions such as how do historians know? Students will learn how to ask questions about the past and then to begin the process of learning to address these questions. Finally, students will learn how to effectively communicate their conclusions to a general audience through the development of written communication skills. The course also emphasizes reading historical texts as well as listening to other's ideas—all of which are important in the learning process.

The break down for grading is as follows:

Discussion:	20 points
Short Essays:	180 points
Final Reflective Essay	20
Total:	220 points

At the end of the semester:

220-200 points will be an A

199-170 points will be a B

169-140 points will be a C

139-120 points will be a D

Lower than 119 points will be an F

Guidelines for Short Papers

These papers are to be the student's best critical thought based on a well thought and organized angle that is well devised and substantiated. The papers must contain a major intellectual thought and/or philosophy. Philosophies related to liberalism and history as progress will structure the course and must be included in your paper. A theme should be the heading of your paper, which must include a thesis statement in the first paragraph. There ought to be some specific idea about the subject matter that you decide to address and flesh out in an organized fashion as thoroughly as you can, without rambling. The key to success in writing the papers is your own organized thought and following the guidelines for the paper! Your professor is delighted to give you guidance for this paper and even suggestions, if so needed. Late papers will be penalized 20 pts. off for each session late. Give considerable thought to your paper in advance. See the professor during office hours far in advance of due dates, if needed, for guidance. Use Turabian's

Handbook or Chicago Manual of Style exactly for endnotes.
 Papers should be two pages, single-spaced.

Credit: Final Reflective Essay (20 points) Due: Dec. 19th^[SEP] This is an opened-ended two page single space essay for which the main requirement is summarizing some of the conclusions you've drawn about American historiography in a way that references the articles we've read (L.D. Burnett, Degler, Johnson). More specifically, students should discuss the question of agency: How effective have historians been in focusing on the agency of ordinary historical actors? Have they given too much agency to Indians, slaves, women, workers, yeomen farmers, etc.? Has the focus on agency obscured the constraints under which people lived? What is gained and lost by the "bottom up" approach? Whatever the focus, the idea is not simply to blithely praise or slam a field. Instead, your job is to note the strengths and weaknesses of some larger trends and to try to understand the possibilities and limits of particular ways of doing a particular kind of history. And whatever your view, you need to dramatize and support your case with SPECIFIC EXAMPLES from throughout the readings by Carl Degler and Walter Johnson.

Course Schedule and Readings

Module I Due Sept. 25-26th	Read: Chapter 1 MAL, L.D. Burnett, Historiography Summaries
Module II Due Oct. 17th	Read: Chapter 2 MAL, Carl Degler
Module III Due Nov. 7th	Read: Chapter 3 MAL, Walter Johnson
Module IV Due Nov. 21st	Read: Chapter 4 MAL
Module V Due Dec. 5th	Read: Chapter 5 MAL
Module VI Due Dec. 12th	Read: Chapter 6 MAL
Module VII: Due Dec. 19th	Read: L.D. Burnett, Carl Degler, Walter Johnson

Supplementary Reading List

17th and 18th centuries

Jean-Christophe Agnew, *Worlds Apart : The Market and the Theater in Anglo-American Thought, 1550-1750* (Cambridge [Cambridgeshire] ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986).

Joyce Oldham Appleby, *Liberalism and Republicanism in the Historical Imagination* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1992).

Bernard Bailyn, *The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson*. (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1974).

Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Enl. ed., (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1992).

Bernard Bailyn, *To Begin the World Anew : The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders*, 1st ed., (New York: Knopf ; Distributed by Random House, 2003).

Lance Banning, *The Jeffersonian Persuasion : Evolution of a Party Ideology* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1978).

Lance Banning, *The Sacred Fire of Liberty : James Madison and the Founding of the Federal Republic* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1995).

Sacvan Bercovitch, *The American Jeremiad* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1978).

Daniel J. Boorstin, *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson : With a New Preface*, Phoenix ed., (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981).

Jon Butler, *Awash in a Sea of Faith : Christianizing the American People, vol. Studies in cultural history* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1990).

Jon Butler, *Becoming America : The Revolution Before 1776* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2000).

Saul Cornell, *The Other Founders : Anti-Federalism and the Dissenting Tradition in America, 1788-1828* (Chapel Hill: Published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, by the University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Andrew Delbanco, *The Puritan Ordeal* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1989).

Eric Foner, *Tom Paine and Revolutionary America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1976).

Nathan O. Hatch, and Mark A. Noll, *The Bible in America : Essays in Cultural History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982).

Alan Heimert, *Religion and the American Mind, From the Great Awakening to the Revolution* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966).

Linda K. Kerber, *Women of the Republic : Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America* (New York: Norton, 1986).

Perry Miller, *The New England Mind: The Seventeenth Century*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1954).

Perry Miller, *Errand Into the Wilderness*. (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1956).

Edmund S. Morgan, *The Puritan Dilemma; the Story of John Winthrop.*, [1st ed.], vol. The Library of American biography (Boston: Little, Brown, 1958).

Edmund S. Morgan, *Visible Saints : The History of a Puritan Idea* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1968).

Edmund S. Morgan, *Inventing the People : The Rise of Popular Sovereignty in England and America* (New York: Norton, 1988).

Gordon S. Wood, *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787* (Chapel Hill: Published for the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Va., by the University of North Carolina Press, 1969).

Gordon S. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, 1st Vintage Books ed., (New York: Vintage Books, 1993).

Gordon S. Wood, *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin* (New York: Penguin Press, 2004).

19th Century

Robert C. Bannister, *Social Darwinism : Science and Myth in Anglo-American Social Thought*, vol. *American civilization* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1979).

Gail Bederman, *Manliness & Civilization : A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917*, vol. *Women in culture and society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995).

Thomas Bender, *The Antislavery Debate : Capitalism and Abolitionism as a Problem in Historical Interpretation* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992).

Sacvan Bercovitch, *The Rites of Assent : Transformations in the Symbolic Construction of America* (New York: Routledge, 1993).

David W. Blight, *Frederick Douglass' Civil War : Keeping Faith in Jubilee* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989).

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion : The Civil War in American Memory* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001).

Lawrence Buell, *New England Literary Culture From Revolution Through Renaissance*, vol. *Cambridge studies in American literature and culture* (Cambridge [Cambridgeshire] ; New York, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press, 1986).

Lawrence Buell, *The Environmental Imagination : Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1995).

Lawrence Buell, *The American Transcendentalists : Essential Writings*, Modern Library pbk. ed., vol. *The Modern Library classics* (New York: Modern Library, 2006).

Nancy Cohen, *The Reconstruction of American Liberalism, 1865-1914* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002).

Paul Keith. Conkin, *Prophets of Prosperity : America's First Political Economists* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1980).

George Cotkin, *William James, Public Philosopher*, vol. New studies in American intellectual and cultural history (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990).

David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture*. (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1966).

David Brion Davis, *Slavery and Human Progress* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984).

David Brion. Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823* (New York: Oxford Universtiy Press, 1999).

Sue Davis, *The Political Thought of Elizabeth Cady Stanton : Women's Rights and the American Political Traditions* (New York: New York University Press, 2008).

Ann Douglas, *The Feminization of American Culture* (New York: Noonday Press/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998).

Alice Fahs, *The Imagined Civil War : Popular Literature of the North & South, 1861-1865, vol. Civil War America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001).

Drew Gilpin Faust, *A Sacred Circle : The Dilemma of the Intellectual in the Old South, 1840-1860* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977).

Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering : Death and the American Civil War*, 1st ed., (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008).

Philip F. Gura, *American Transcendentalism : A History*, 1st ed., (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007).

Allen Guttman, *The Conservative Tradition in America*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967).

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America; an Interpretation of American Political Thought Since the Revolution.*, [1st ed.], (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1955).

Richard Hofstadter, *Social Darwinism in American Thought.*, Rev. ed., (Boston: Beacon Press, 1955).

Richard Hofstadter, *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life.*, [1st ed.], (New York: Knopf, 1963).

Richard Hofstadter, *The Progressive Historians: Turner, Beard, Parrington.*, [1st ed.], (New York: Knopf, 1968).

George Kateb, *Emerson and Self-Reliance* (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1995)

George M. Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture*, 2nd ed., (New York: Oxford

University Press, 2006).

Wilson Jeremiah Moses, *The Golden Age of Black Nationalism, 1850-1925* (Hamden, Conn.:

Archon Books, 1978).

Michael O'Brien, *Rethinking the South : Essays in Intellectual History* (Baltimore: Johns

Hopkins University Press, 1988).

Henry Nash. Smith, *Virgin Land : The American West as Symbol and Myth* (Cambridge, Mass.:

Harvard University Press, 1970).

Richard F. Teichgraeber, *Building Culture : Studies in the Intellectual History of Industrializing*

America, 1867-1910 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2010).

John L. Thomas, *Alternative America : Henry George, Edward Bellamy, Henry Demarest Lloyd,*

and the Adversary Tradition (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1983).

20th Century

William E. Akin, *Technocracy and the American Dream : The Technocrat Movement, 1900-*

1941 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977).

Guy Alchon, *The Invisible Hand of Planning : Capitalism, Social Science, and the State in the*

1920s (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1985).

Patrick Allitt, *Catholic Intellectuals and Conservative Politics in America, 1950-1985* (Ithaca,

N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1993).

S. M. Amadae, *Rationalizing Capitalist Democracy : The Cold War Origins of Rational Choice Liberalism* (Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2003).

Stanley Aronowitz, *False Promises; the Shaping of American Working Class Consciousness*.
(New York: McGraw-Hill, 1973).

Houston A. Baker, *Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature : A Vernacular Theory*
(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984).

Houston A. Baker, *Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987).

Houston A. Baker, *Betrayal : How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008).

Katharine Lawrence Balfour, *The Evidence of Things Not Said : James Baldwin and the Promise of American Democracy* (Ithaca, N.Y. ; London: Cornell University Press, 2001).

Katharine Lawrence Balfour, *Democracy's Reconstruction Thinking Politically With W.E.B. Du Bois* (New York ; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Lois W. Banner, *Intertwined Lives Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict, and Their Circle*, 1st Vintage Books ed., (New York: Vintage, 2004).

Paul S. Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light American Thought and Culture At the Dawn of the Atomic Age* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994).

Patrick Brantlinger, *Bread & Circuses: Theories of Mass Culture as Social Decay* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983).

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

Howard Brick, *Transcending Capitalism : Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006).

Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War* (Vintage, 1996).

Mary Jo Deegan, *Race, Hull-House, and the University of Chicago: A New Conscience Against Ancient Evils* (Westport, Ct: Praeger, 2002).

Mary Deegan, Jo, *Jane Addams and the Men of the Chicago School, 1892-1918* (New Brunswick: Transaction Books, 1988).

Michael Eric. Dyson, *Making Malcolm : The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).

Michael Eric. Dyson, *Mercy, Mercy Me : The Art, Loves, and Demons of Marvin Gaye* (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2004).

Leon Fink, *Progressive Intellectuals and the Dilemmas of Democratic Commitment* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997).

Richard Wightman Fox, *Reinhold Niebuhr : A Biography*, 1st ed., (New York: Pantheon Books, 1985).

Richard Wightman Fox, *Jesus in America : Personal Savior, Cultural Hero, National Obsession*, 1st ed., ([San Francisco]: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004).

Morris Dickstein, *Gates of Eden : American Culture in the Sixties* (New York: Basic Books, 1977).