

American Intellectual History: The Twentieth Century
History 232
Term II, 1998-99
Dr. Lanier

The following books will be required in History 232:
Readings in American Intellectual History (1999).
Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (1926).

History 232 has three central objectives:

- 1) To reflect upon the roles intellectuals play in modern American society
- 2) To increase your understanding of modernism and its impact on American culture
- 3) To trace patterns of American social thought from 1900 to the present

Unit I. Intellectuals and American Society

JANUARY

13	Introduction	On Being an Intellectual
15	More Introduction	American Ideas in 1900
18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	
20	A Definition of Modernism	Daniel Joseph Singal, "Towards a Definition of American Modernism" (1987)
22	Examples of Modernism	
25	Intellectuals and Reform	Gary Gerstle, "The Protean Character of

Unit II. The Emergence of Modernism

27	Precursors of Modernism: James	William James, "What Pragmatism Means"
29	Pragmatism and the Future	William James, "The Moral Equivalent of

FEBRUARY

1	Precursors of Modernism: Science and Moral Judgments	Thorstein Veblen, <u>The Theory of the Leisure Class</u>
3	Intellectual Origins of Feminism	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow
5	Racism and African-American <u>Folk</u> Intellectuals	W.E.B. DuBois, <u>The Souls of Black</u>
8	The Progressive Movement	Jane Addams, <u>Twenty Years at Hull House</u>
10	Progressivism: Applying the Experimental Approach	Jane Addams, <u>Twenty Years at Hull House</u>
12	Varieties of Progressivism	Ronald Steel, <u>Walter Lippmann and the American Century</u> (1980) Walter Weyl, <u>The New Democracy</u>
15	Rebellion of the Young Intellectuals	Henry May, "The Rebellion of the
17	"The Beloved Community"	Randolph Bourne, <u>Youth and Life</u> "Trans-National America"
19	The First Modern American Artists	Video: Georgia O'Keefe
22	The Lyrical Left	John Diggins, <u>The Rise and Fall of the American Left</u> (1992).

Unit III. The Spread of Modernism and the Dilemmas of Democracy

FEBRUARY

26 The Impact of World War I Bourne, "The War and the Intellectuals"

MARCH

1 'A Lost Generation' Video: Ernest Hemingway

3 Paris in the Twenties Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (1926)

5 Discussion Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (1926)

SPRING VACATION

15 Discuss Term Paper Topic and Bibliography

17 Racism and Anthropology Franz Boas, "The Real Race Problem"

19 The Harlem Renaissance Langston Hughes, "The Negro Artist"

22 Cultural Relativism Margaret Mead, Coming of Age in Somoa

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| 24 | Social Thought in the 20's | H.L. Mencken, <u>Notes on Democracy</u>
Twelve Southerners, <u>I'll Take My Stand</u> |
| 26 | The Great Depression and a New Deal | Berle and Means, <u>The Modern Corporation</u> |
| 29 | The Left in the Thirties | Granville Hicks, <u>I Like America</u> |
| 31 | Submit paper thesis and bibliography | |

APRIL

1 **EASTER RECESS**

APRIL

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| 5 | World War II and Democracy Triumphant
Life” | Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., “Reinhold Niebuhr’s
Role in American Political Thought and |
| 7 | McCarthyism and the Intellectuals | Paul Robeson, <u>Here I Stand</u> |
| 9 | Cold War Liberalism | Daniel Bell, <u>The End of Ideology</u> |
| 12 | The Civil Rights Movement | Martin Luther King, “Letter from a |
| 14 | The Beats and the Counterculture | Allen Ginsberg, “America” from <u>Howl</u>
Paul Goodman, <u>Growing Up Absurd</u> |
| 16 | The New Left | C. Wright Mills, <u>The Sociological</u> |
| 18 | Conservative Resurgence | Allan Bloom, <u>The Closing of the American</u> |
| 20 | Postmodernism and the new Culture Wars | Lawrence Levine, <u>The Opening of the</u> |

22 **TERM PAPERS DUE**

25 Oral Reports

27 Oral Reports

29 Oral Reports

Final Exam: Monday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.

Special Instructions:

Participation in class discussions is essential. Students are expected to prepare each assignment and to contribute regularly. 20% of the grade will be based on participation.

A term paper, approximately ten pages in length, is required. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Note that a thesis statement and a bibliography are due on **March 31**, and the paper must be submitted on **April 22**. The paper will comprise 20% of the course grade.

There will be two essay exams. The mid-term will count for 25% of the grade, and the final will be 35%. All work must be submitted with the Honor Council pledge.

Office: Clough 315

Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30-10:30; Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-10:00.