

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
Professor E. Foner  
Spring 2005  
Tel: 854-5253

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
620 Fayerweather  
Office Hours: Tues., 2-4 pm  
Email: EF17

History W3528y

THE AMERICAN RADICAL TRADITION

Required Readings: All the readings below are required, and all are available in paperback. The list of readings has been given to the Labyrinth Bookstore, on 112<sup>th</sup> Street. The readings include selections from the writings of American radicals, scholarly accounts, and memoirs. All readings are also on reserve in the College Library.

For biographical information on leading American radicals, students should consult Paul Buhle and Harvey Kaye, ed., The American Radical. Other useful reference works include Paul Buhle, Dan Georgakis, and Mari Jo Buhle, Encyclopedia of the American Left, and Paul Buhle and Edmund Sullivan, Images of American Radicalism.

Paper: Each student will write a paper of about ten pages, analyzing a work by an American radical. The paper is due at the discussion sections during Week 14. See the list of suggested books on the course website.

Sections: In addition to the lectures, undergraduate students are required to attend a weekly discussion section, directed by a graduate teaching assistant. The list of section hours and assignments will be arranged during the second week of classes. Failure to attend the sections regularly will have an adverse impact on your grade!

Graduate students are welcome to register for R credit, but not for E credit.

Course Outline and Weekly Assignments:

Week 1 (Jan. 19): Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 24, 26): Origins of American Radicalism

Eric Foner, Tom Paine and Revolutionary America, chs. 1-5

Timothy McCarthy and John McMillian, The Radical Reader, 25-28, 33-37, 41-43

Week 3 (Jan. 31, Feb. 2): The First Age of Reform

Ronald Walters, American Reformers, chs. 1-3, 8-9

McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 63-65, 69-72, 227-29

Week 4 (Feb. 7, 9): The Crusade Against Slavery

James B. Stewart, Holy Warriors, chs. 2-4, 6-7

McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 79-83, 114-20, 151-59

Week 5 (Feb 14, 16): The Origins of Feminism

Ellen C. DuBois, Feminism and Suffrage, chs. 1-3, 6

McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 165-72, 185-87, 199-202

Week 6 (Feb. 21, 23): Radicalism in the Industrial Age

Leon Fink, Workingmen's Democracy, chs. 1-2, 6-8

McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 98-102, 239-49

Week 7 (Feb. 28, Mar. 2): American Populism

Lawrence Goodwyn, The Populist Moment, chs. 1-6

McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 250-56, 264-68

Week 8 (Mar. 7, 9)

No readings or discussion sections this week. Class meets Mar. 7

Midterm examination: Wednesday March 9

Week 9 (Mar. 21, 23): American Socialism

James Weinstein, The Long Detour, chs. 1-5  
McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 281-299, 310-13

Week 10 (Mar. 28, 30): The Birth of Modern Feminism

Nancy Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism, chs. 1-4  
McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 103-07, 211-12

Week 11 (Apr. 4, 6): Black Radicalism in the Early Twentieth Century

Winston James, Holding Aloft the Banner of Ethiopia, chs. 2-3, 5-6  
McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 329-39

Week 12 (Apr. 11, 13): The "Old Left"

Dorothy Ray Healey and Maurice Isserman, California Red, chs. 1-6  
McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 320-26

Week 13 (Apr. 18, 20): The Civil Rights Revolution

John Dittmer, Local People, chs. 6-13  
McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 352-77, 382-99

Week 14 (Apr. 25, 27): The New Left

Weinstein, The Long Detour, chs. 7-9  
McCarthy and McMillian, Radical Reader, 417-27, 458-60, 468-88, 503-06,  
511-13, 577-84, 636-42

Week 15 (May 2): Looking Forward

No readings. Class meets May 2