### AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

#### Overview:

This graduate seminar explores historical works on ideas in an American context since the late nineteenth century, with an emphasis on recent developments in the field.

### Assignments and grading:

This is a readings seminar, and the primary expectation is that every student will arrive in class prepared to contribute to an in-depth discussion of the assigned texts. (The "supplementary readings" are *not* mandatory, but are listed as a guide to help students identify further readings on specific topics.) Unless students request otherwise, this course will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

#### Texts:

Unless otherwise noted, the readings from the course will be available on electronic reserve.

# Wednesday, August 30th: Methodologies of Intellectual History

- Arthur Lovejoy, "The Study of the History of Ideas," in *The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea* (Harper & Brothers, 1936), pp. 3–23.
- Quentin Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," in *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and His Critics*, ed. James Tully (Princeton University Press, 1988), pp. 29–67.
- Daniel Wickberg, "What is the History of Sensibilities? On Cultural Histories, Old and New," *American Historical Review* (June 2007).
- Brandon Byrd, "The Rise of African American Intellectual History," *Modern Intellectual History* 2020 (FirstView).

# Wednesday, September 6th: Race, Nation, and Civic Memory

- David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001).
- Khalil Gibran Muhammed, *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America* (Harvard University Press, 2010), introduction and ch. 1.

## Supplementary Readings:

• Mia Bay, The White Image in the Black Mind: African-American Ideas about White People, 1830–1925 (Oxford University Press, 2000).

- Fitzhugh Brundage, *The Southern Past: A Clash of Race and Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2008).
- Pero Dagbovie, Reclaiming the Black Past: The Use and Misuse of African American History in the 21st Century (Verso, 2018).
- Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (Vintage, 2009).
- Barbara Fields, Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life (Verso, 2014).
- Michael Hanchard, The Spectre of Race: How Discrimination Haunts Western Democracy (Princeton, 2020).
- John Higham, Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860–1925 (Rutgers University Press, 2002).
- Jonathan Holloway, Jim Crow Wisdom: Memory and Identity in Black America since 1940 (University of North Carolina Press, 2015).
- Matthew Frye Jacobson, Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race (Harvard University Press, 1998).
- Ibram Kendi, Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Antiracist Ideas in America (Bold Type, 2017).
- Ross Posnock, Color and Culture: Black Writers and the Making of the Modern Intellectual (Harvard University Press, 1998).
- Daryl Michael Scott, Contempt and Pity: Social Policy and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880–1996 (University of North Carolina Press, 1997).
- Werner Sollors, Beyond Ethnicity: Consent and Descent in American Culture (Oxford University Press, 1986).
- Jeanne Theoharis, A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History (Beacon, 2019).

# Wednesday, September 13th: Religion and the Dynamics of Secularization

- Kathryn Gin Lum, *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History* (Harvard University Press, 2022).
- David Hollinger, After Cloven Tongues of Fire: Protestant Liberalism in Modern American History (Princeton University Press, 2013), ch. 1, ch. 2.

- Christopher Cameron, *Black Freethinkers: A History of African American Secularism* (Northwestern University Press, 2019).
- Darren Dochuk, From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism (Norton, 2012).
- David Hollinger, ed., *The Humanities and the Dynamics of Inclusion since World War II* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).
- David Hollinger, Science, Jews, and Secular Culture: Studies in Mid-Twentieth-Century American Intellectual History (Princeton University Press, 1996).

- David Hollinger, Protestants Abroad: How Missionaries Tried to Change the World but Changed America (Princeton University Press, 2017).
- Susan Jacoby, Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism (Holt, 2005).
- George Marsden, The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief (Basic, 2014).
- George Marsden, The Soul of the American University: From Protestant Establishment to Established Nonbelief (Oxford University Press, 1996).
- George Marsden, Fundamentalism and American Culture (Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Melani McAlister, *The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals* (Oxford University Press, 2018).
- Andrew Preston, Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy (Anchor, 2012).
- Kevin M. Schultz, *Tri-Faith America: How Catholics and Jews Held Postwar America to its Protestant Promise* (Oxford University Press, 2013).
- David Sehat, *The Myth of American Religious Freedom* (Oxford University Press, 2011).
- David Sehat, *This Earthly Frame: the Making of American Secularism* (Yale University Press, 2022).
- Kevin Sutton, *American Apocalypse: A History of American Evangelicalism* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014).
- David Swartz, Moral Minority: The Evangelical Left in an Age of Conservatism (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014).
- Charles Taylor, A Secular Age (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007). James Turner, Without God, Without Creed: The Origins of Unbelief in America (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985).
- Tyrrell, Ian R. Reforming the World: the Creation of America's Moral Empire (Princeton University Press, 2010).
- Volk, Kyle G. *Moral Minorities and the Making of American Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2014).
- Molly Worthen, *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism* Oxford University Press, 2013).
- Gene Zubovich, *The Global Gospel: Christian Human Rights and the Fracturing of the Twentieth-Century United States* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2022).

# Wednesday, September 20th: Time, Space, and the History of the Future

- Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space 1880–1918* (Harvard University Press, 1983).
- Reinhart Koselleck, "Space of Experience' and 'Horizon of Expectation': Two Historical Categories," in *Futures Past* (Columbia University Press, 2004).
- Carey, James W. "Technology and Ideology: The Case of the Telegraph," *Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society* (New York: Routledge, 1992), pp. 201-230.

### Supplementary Readings:

- Jenny Andersson, Matthew Connelly, David Engerman, and Manu Goswami, "Forum: Histories of the Future." *American Historical Review* 117, no. 5 (2012), pp. 1402–1410.
- Amy Sue Bix, Inventing Ourselves Out of Jobs? America's Debate over Technological Unemployment, 1929–1981 (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).
- Daniel J. Boorstin, The Republic of Technology: Reflections on Our Future Community (Harper & Row, 1978).
- David Noble, America By Design: Science, Technology, and the Rise of Corporate Capitalism (Knopf, 1977).
- Vanessa Ogle, "Whose Time is It? The Pluralization of Time and the Global Condition, 1870s to 1940s," *American Historical Review* 120, no. 5 (2013), pp. 1376–1402.
- Daniel Rodgers, The Work Ethic in Industrial America (University of Chicago Press, 1978).
- Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the Nineteenth Century* (University of California Press, 2014).
- Howard P. Segal, *Technological Utopianism in American Culture* (University of Chicago Press, 1985).

# Wednesday, September 27th: Nineteenth-Century Liberalism and its Critics

- T. J. Jackson Lears, No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880–1920 (University of Chicago Press, 1994).
- Susan Pearson, *The Rights of the Defenseless: Protecting Animals and Children in Gilded Age America* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), introduction, ch. 3, conclusion.
- William H. Sewell Jr., "The Concept(s) of Culture," in *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation* (University of Chicago Press, 2005).

- Leslie Butler, Critical Americans: Victorian Intellectuals and Transatlantic Liberal Reform (University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- Robert M. Crunden, *American Salons: Encounters with European Modernism*, 1885–1917 (Oxford University Press, 1993).
- Richard Wightman Fox and T. J. Jackson Lears, eds., *The Culture of Consumption: Critical Essays in American History* (Pantheon, 1983).
- Richard Wightman Fox and T. J. Jackson Lears, *The Power of Culture* (University of Chicago Press, 1993).
- Mary Furner, Advocacy and Objectivity: A Crisis in the Professionalization of American Social Science, 1865–1905 (University Press of Kentucky, 1975).
- Gary Gerstle, "The Protean Character of American Liberalism," *The American Historical Review* 99, no. 4 (1994): 1043–73.
- Thomas Haskell, The Emergence of Professional Social Science: The American Social Science Association and the Nineteenth-Century Crisis of Authority (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).

- Andrew Jewett, Science, Democracy, and the American University: From the Civil War to the Cold War (Cambridge University Press, 2012).
- James Kloppenberg, Uncertain Victory: Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870–1920 (Oxford University Press, 1988).
- T. J. Jackson Lears, *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America*, 1877–1920 (Harper Perennial, 2010).
- Henry F. May, *The End of American Innocence: The First Years of our Own Time*, 1912–1917 (Oxford University Press,1959).
- Paul V. Murphy, *The Rebuke of History: The Southern Agrarians and American Conservative Thought* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001).
- Charles Postel, *The Populist Vision* (Oxford University Press, 2009), introduction and ch. 4, 9.
- Julie Reuben, *The Making of the Modern University: Intellectual Transformation and the Marginalization of Morality* (University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- Daniel T. Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (Harvard University Press, 1998).
- Jeffrey Sklansky, *The Soul's Economy: Market Society and Selfhood in American Thought, 1820–1920* (University of Northern Press, 2002).
- Christine Stansell, *American Moderns: Bohemian New York and the Creation of a New Century* (Henry Holt, 2000).
- John L. Thomas, Alternative America: Henry George, Edward Bellamy, Henry Demarest Lloyd and the Adversary Tradition (Harvard University Press, 1983).
- Robert Westbrook, John Dewey and American Democracy (Cornell University Press, 1991).
- Robert Wiebe, The Search for Order: 1877–1920 (Hill and Wang, 1967).

# Wednesday, October 4th: Black Radicalism and the Politics of Self-Determination:

- Minkah Makalani, In the Cause of Freedom: Radical Black Internationalism from Harlem to London, 1917–1939 (University of North Carolina Press, 2014).
- Keisha Blain, Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), introduction, ch. 5.
- Ashley Farmer, *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017), introduction, ch. 2.

- Carol Anderson, Eyes off the Prize: The United Nations and the African-American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944–1955 (Cambridge University Press, 2003).
- Brandon Byrd, *The Black Republic: African Americans and the Fate of Haiti* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019).
- Brittney Cooper, Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women (University of Illinois Press, 2017).
- Penny M. Von Eschen, *Race against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism*, 1937–1957 (Cornell University Press, 1997).

- Adam Ewing, The Age of Garvey: How a Jamaican Activist Created a Mass Movement and Changed Global Black Politics (Princeton University Press, 2014).
- Daniel Geary, Beyond Civil Rights: The Moynihan Report and its Legacy (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018).
- George Hutchinson, *The Harlem Renaissance in Black and White* (Harvard University Press, 1995).
- David Hollinger, Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism (Basic, 2000).
- Jonathan Holloway, Confronting the Veil: Abram Harris Jr., E. Franklin Frazier, and Ralph Bunche, 1919–1941 (University of North Carolina Press, 2001).
- Peniel Joseph, *The Black Power Movement: Rethinking the Civil Rights Black Power Era* (Routledge, 2006).
- Robin D. G. Kelley, "But a Local Phase of a World Problem': Black History's Global Vision, 1883-1950," *Journal of American History* 86 (1999), pp. 1045-1077.
- Robin D. G. Kelley, Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination (Beacon, 2003).
- Michael J. Klarman, From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality (Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Russell Rickford, We Are an African People (Oxford, 2019).
- Nico Slate, Colored Cosmopolitanism: The Shared Struggle for Freedom in the United States and India (Harvard University Press, 2011).

# Wednesday, October 11th: Foundations and Anti-Foundations:

- Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, American Nietzsche: A History of an Icon and His Ideas (University of Chicago Press, 2011).
- Mark Greif, *The Age of the Crisis of Man : Thought and Fiction in America, 1933–1973* (Princeton University Press, 2015), ch. 1-4, 9–10, Conclusion.
- Sylvia Wynter, "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation--An Argument," CR: The New Centennial Review 3, no. 3 (2003), pp. 257–337.

- Evelyn Barish, *The Double Life of Paul De Man* (Liveright, 2014).
- Casey Nelson Blake, Beloved Community: The Cultural Criticism of Randolph Bourne, Van Wyck Brooks, Waldo Frank, and Lewis Mumford (University of North Carolina Press, 1990).
- Neil Jumonville, Critical Crossings: The New York Intellectuals in Postwar America (University of California Press, 1991).
- Wilfred McClay, *The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America* (University of North Carolina Press, 1994), introduction and chs. 7, 8.
- Joan Shelley Rubin, *The Making of Middlebrow Culture* (University of North Carolina Press, 1992).
- David Shi, Facing Facts: Realism in American Thought and Culture, 1850–1920 (Oxford University Press, 1995).

# Wednesday, October 18th: Law, Policy, and the Idea of the Self

- Sarah Igo, *The Known Citizen: A History of Privacy in Modern America* (Harvard University Press, 2018).
- Susanna Blumenthal, Law and the Modern Mind: Consciousness and Responsibility in American Legal Culture (Harvard University Press, 2016).
- Susan Pearson, *The Birth Certificate: An American History* (University of North Carolina Press, 2021), selections.

### Supplementary Readings:

- Hendrik Hartog, Someday All This Will Be Yours: A History of Inheritance and Old Age (Harvard University Press, 2012).
- Morton Horwitz, *The Transformation of American Law*, 1870–1960: The Crisis of Legal Orthodoxy (Oxford University Press, 1992).
- Richard H. Pells, Not Like Us: How Europeans Have Loved, Hated, and Transformed American Culture since World War II (Basic, 1997).
- Edward Purcell, *The Crisis of Democratic Theory: Scientific Naturalism and the Problem of Value* (University Press of Kentucky, 1973).
- David Sehat, *The Jefferson Rule: How the Founding Fathers Became Infallible and Our Politics Inflexible* (Simon & Schuster, 2015).

# Wednesday, October 25th: Cold War Liberalisms

- Samuel Moyn, Liberalism Against Itself: Cold War Intellectuals and the Making of Our Times (Yale University Press, 2023).
- Howard Brick, *Transcending Capitalism: Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought* (Cornell University Press, 2006), ch. 5, ch. 6.
- Joel Isaac, "Tool Shock: Technique and Epistemology in the Postwar Social Sciences," *History of Political Economy* 42, supplement, pp. 133–164.

- Benjamin Alpers, Dictators, Democracy, and American Public Culture: Envisioning the Totalitarian Enemy, 1920s–1950s (University of North Carolina Press, 2003).
- Paul Boyer, By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age (University of North Carolina Press, 1985).
- Howard Brick, Daniel Bell and the Decline of Intellectual Radicalism: Social Theory and Political Reconciliation in the 1940s (University of Wisconsin Press, 1986).
- Sarah Bridger, Scientists at War: The Ethics of Cold War Weapons Research (Harvard University Press, 2015).
- David Ciepley, Liberalism in the Shadow of Totalitarianism (Harvard University Press, 2006).
- Mary Dudziak, Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy (Princeton University Press, 2002).

- Daniel Horowitz, Consuming Pleasures: Intellectuals and Popular Culture in the Postwar World (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012).
- Joel Isaac, Working Knowledge: Making the Human Sciences from Parsons to Kuhn (Harvard University Press, 2012).
- Michael Kimmage, The Conservative Turn: Lionel Trilling, Whittaker Chambers, and the Lessons of Anti-Communism (Harvard University Press, 2009).
- Amy Offner, Sorting Out the Mixed Economy: The Rise and Fall of Welfare and Developmental States in the Americas (Princeton University Press, 2019).
- Joy Rohde, Armed with Expertise: The Militarization of American Social Research During the Cold War (Cornell University Press, 2013).
- Ellen Schrecker, No Ivory Tower: McCarthyism and the Universities (Oxford University Press, 1986).
- Mark Solovey, Shaky Foundations: The Politics-Patronage-Social Science Nexus in Cold War America (Rutgers University Press, 2013).
- Jessica Wang, American Science in an Age of Anxiety: Scientists, Anticommunism, and the Cold War (University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

### Wednesday, November 1st: The Liberal Tradition, Then and Now

- Katrina Forrester, In the Shadow of Justice: Postwar Liberalism and the Remaking of Political Philosophy (Harvard University Press, 2019).
- Louis Hartz, The Liberal Tradition in America (Harcourt, Brace, 1955), ch. 1.

# Supplementary Readings:

- Robert M. Collins, *MORE: The Politics of Economic Growth in Postwar America* (Oxford University Press, 2000).
- John Patrick Diggins, The Rise and Fall of the American Left (Norton, 1992).
- Andrius Galisanka, *John Rawls: The Path to a Theory of Justice* (Harvard University Press, 2019).
- Daniel Geary, Radical Ambition: C. Wright Mills, the Left, and American Social Thought (University of California Press, 2009).
- Samuel Moyn, The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History (Harvard University Press, 2010).
- Samuel Moyn, *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2018).
- Alice O'Connor, Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History (Princeton University Press, 2002).

# Wednesday, November 8th: Intellectual History in the Anthropocene

- Emily Klancher Merchant, Building the Population Bomb (Oxford University Press, 2021).
- Ian Hacking, "Making Up People," in *Historical Ontology* (Harvard University Press, 2004). 161–171.

• Jewett, Science Under Fire: Challenges to Scientific Authority in Postwar America (Harvard University Press, 2020), selections.

### Supplementary Readings:

- Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Contgrol World Population* (Harvard University Press, 2010).
- Karl Jacoby, Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation (University of California Press, 2001).
- Stephen Macekura, *The Mismeasure of Progress: Economic Growth and its Critics* (University of Chicago Press, 2020).
- Mark Mazower, Governing the World: The History of an Idea (Penguin, 2012).
- Paul Warde, *The Environment: A History of the Idea* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018).
- Keith Woodhouse, *The Ecocentrists: A History of Radical Environmentalism* (Columbia University Press, 2018).

### Wednesday, November 15th: The Neoliberal Turn

- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture* (Harvard University Press, 2011).
- Dorothy Ross, "Whatever Happened to the Social in American Social Thought?", *Modern Intellectual History*, January 2021.
- James T. Kloppenberg, "Pragmatism: An Old Name for Some New Ways of Thinking?", *Journal of American History* 83 (1996), 100-138.

- S. M. Amadae, Rationalizing Capitalist Democracy: The Cold War Origins of Rational Choice Liberalism (University of Chicago Press, 2003).
- Thomas Biebricher, *The Political Theory of Neoliberalism* (Stanford University Press, 2018).
- Angus Burgin, *The Great Persuasion: Reinventing Free Markets since the Depression* (Harvard University Press, 2012).
- Jennifer Burns, Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right (Oxford University Press, 2009).
- Melinda Cooper, Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism (Zone Books, 2017).
- Jefferson Cowie, *The Great Exception: The New Deal and the Limits of American Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2016).
- Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France*, 1978–1979 (Palgrave, 2008).
- Gary Gerstle, "The Rise and Fall(?) of America's Neoliberal Order," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 28 (December 2018): 241–64.
- Nancy MacLean, Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America (Viking, 2017).
- Philip Mirowski and Dieter Plehwe, *The Road from Mont Pelerin: The Making of the Neoliberal Thought Collective* (Harvard University Press, 2009).

- George Nash, The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America: Since 1945 (Basic, 1976).
- Bruce Schulman and Julian Zelizer, eds., *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s* (Harvard University Press, 2008).
- Quinn Slobodian, Globalists: The End of Empire and the Birth of Neoliberalism (Harvard University Press, 2018).
- Daniel Stedman-Jones, *Masters of the Universe: Hayek, Friedman, and the Birth of Neoliberal Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2012).
- Steven Teles, *The Rise of the Conservative Legal Movement: The Battle for Control of the Law* (Princeton University Press, 2008).
- Justin Vaïsse, *Neoconservatism: The Biography of a Movement*, trans. Arthur Goldhammer (Harvard University Press, 2010).

### Wednesday, December 3rd: Cyberspace Ideologies

- Fred Turner, From Counterculture to Cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the Rise of Digital Utopianism (University of Chicago Press, 2006).
- Quinn Slobodian, Crack-Up Capitalism: Market Radicals and the Dream of a World Without Democracy (Macmillan, 2023).

- Ruha Benjamin, Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code (Polity, 2019).
- Finn Brunton, Digital Cash: The Unknown History of the Anarchists, Utopians, and Technologists Who Created Cryptocurrency.
- Finn Brunton, Spam: A Shadow HIstory of the Internet (MIT Press, 2013).
- Kevin Driscoll and Julien Mailland, *Minitel: Welcome to the Internet* (MIT Press, 2017).
- Kevin Driscoll, *The Modem World: A Prehistory of Social Media* (Yale University Press, 2022).
- W. Patrick McCay, The Visioneers: How a Group of Elite Scientists Pursued Space Colonies, Nanotechnologies, and a Limitless Future (Princeton University Press, 2013).
- Margaret O'Mara, Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the Next Silicon Valley (Princeton University Press, 2005).
- Margaret O'Mara, The Code: Silicon Valley and the Remaking of America (Penguin, 2019).
- Joy Lisi Rankin, *A People's History of Computing in the United States* (Harvarde University Press, 2018).
- Matthew Tribbe, No Requiem for the Space Age: The Apollo Moon Landings and American Culture (Oxford University Press, 2014).
- Matthew Wisnioski, Engineers for Change: Competing Visions of Technology in 1960s America (MIT Press, 2012).