

Dr. L.L. Stevenson  
Office: Before & after classes  
Thurs. 1:30-4:00

Spring 2006  
Preceptor: Aaron Gitlin

### MIND, SPIRIT, SELF: TWENTIETH-CENTURY ISMS

In this course, we will pursue an investigation of some of the more notable formulations of thought from the last century that still influence the twenty-first century, including **industrial capitalism, communism, modernism, environmentalism, and feminism**. Course units will offer case studies of isms during their formative years and center on a significant person or institution in US history. For each of these “isms,” we will try to assess how it sought to reconcile the interests of the self with those of society.

For each course unit, we will try to accomplish the following objectives:

- ◆ Definition of the particular ism as a historical phenomenon.
- ◆ Understanding of its operation in a particular historical context.
- ◆ Application of our new understanding to a contemporary or historical problem.

#### Miscellaneous Information:

- ◆ Dr. Stevenson encourages you to see her during **office hours** [before and after class. Thursday, 10-12:15). You can make appointments for other times by emailing. You may also call her at home before 9 PM (390 9822).
- ◆ Please submit all assignments in **hard copy**. Keep an electronic copy for yourself.
- ◆ Please keep an **ongoing record** of what you did in class each day, the assignments you submitted, reports you gave, etc.
- ◆ Please submit all work following Chicago style. If you are unfamiliar with **Chicago style**, please see the Diane Hacker book on reserve in S-FL. There is a cheat sheet on edisk.♦
- ◆ **Extra credit** may include attending, watching, reading, reporting on a film, campus event, book or article and then reporting on this item orally or in writing to Dr. Stevenson. General guideline: for film and lectures, 1 point equals 2 hours of watching plus one point for a 2-page report. For reading, 1 hour equals one random point.
- ◆ **Attendance Standards:** You will be excused from class if you have an excuse from the infirmary or the dean’s office. You must submit a report on the reading and/or film for absent days. And, there are real emergencies that no one can anticipate.
- ◆ **Workload:** I expect you to read, think, write, research for this course at least **4-6 hours per week**. If you are working more than 7 hours per week, let me know ASAP.

Resources: Syllabus and shorter readings are available on **edisk**. Other readings are on library **reserve**.

---

♦ Shadek-Fackenthal Library.

## Class Schedule

1/18 Introduction. Requirements, blackboard, etc.  
For 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone bring in a current newspaper or journal article that pertains to this ism on which you intend to do an oral report.

As you read about Carnegie, make a list of the following items along with page numbers for each reference.

1. Desirable and undesirable personal attributes
2. Those things of which he is proud.
3. Advice for getting ahead, or not.
4. Maxims for management, including treatment of labor.
5. Terms you don't understand. Arrange your list into business terms and general terms.

1/23 Andrew Carnegie, *Autobiography*, xi-xiii, chs. 1-6. Please download from edisk and bring in one copy of "Do's and Don'ts" and "Oral Reports." Make one copy of the last page of this syllabus and bring to class. We start a detailed presentation of Carnegie's biography.

1/25 *Autobiography*, chs. 7-9. Readings from Adam Smith, Lincoln, etc.  
(download from edisk).

**Comment [L]:** Film here on Carnegie.

1/30 *Autobiography*, 10-14. Read at the PBS website the 20 or so pages on the strike. Start at "Strike at Homestead Mill" and read through the "Open Hearth Furnace." Take notes that will be useful for your papers. Oral reports on

1. Molly Maguires
2. Jay Gould, esp., his help during Civil War and his later gold corner.
3. Haymarket Riot
4. Pullman Community, do not do the strike.
5. John D. Rockefeller, Sr., or J. P. Morgan.

2/1 *Autobiography*, 14-end. Instead of his chapter, the "Gospel of Wealth," ch. 19, you may read his article on the same subject available on edisk. Start paper on Carnegie from everyone not doing an oral report or an email account.

### Communism

2/6 Paper due on capitalism. First class on Communism.  
Historical definition and pre-Marxian Communism. Film: "Marx for Beginners."

2/8 Communism in America. Read David Horowitz, *Radical Son*, excerpt on edisk. Look for principles his parents lived by, key dates, the discussion of CP mentality and outer life.  
Extra Credit video in ATS: "Seeing Red": sympathetic interviews with ex-Communists.  
Due the class after the paper is due.

2/13 Start *Red Scarf Girl*, xv-99. Note the glossary on pp. 273 ff. Presentation of sayings from Chairman Mao. Assignment of Paper.  
Extra Credit video in ATS: "Crows and Sparrows": film showing tenant-landlord struggles before the Revolution in 1940s. Due the class after the paper is due.

- 2/15 Read *Red Scarf Girl*, 99-139. Oral Reports on:
1. Ayn Rand, Anthem,
  2. Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*
  3. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, etc.
  4. James Angleton, spy and CIA head.
  5. US spies in the thirties and forties, esp. Elizabeth Bentley, Whittaker Chambers, Alger Hiss.
- 2/20 *Red Scarf Girl*, 140-205. Discussion.
- 2/22 Read *Red Scarf Girl*, 206-end.
- MODERNISM**
- 2/27 Paper due on Communism. Introduction of Modernism.  
Tom Wolfe, *From Bauhaus to our House*, 1-28. You will want to make a list of key terms and people (see Glossary on Bboard) and the pages on which Wolfe mentions them.
- 3/1 *From Bauhaus to our House*, 29-65. For today, one half the class makes a list of campus buildings that are not modern and the other half makes a list of buildings that are. Bring your list to class to hand in. Be able to discuss reasons for inclusion and omission of each building.
- 3/6 *From Bauhaus to our House*, 66-96. Reports on:
1. Guggenheim Museum (NYC),
  2. UN headquarters, Lever House, or Seagram Building (NYC).
- 3/8 No class.
- !!!Spring Break!!!!**
- 3/20 From Bauhaus to our House, 97-end. Reports on
1. Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.),
  2. Renovation of the Louvre, or East Wing Addition, Washington, DC.
  3. Steinman College Center and its relationship to the WTC, or Guggenheim, Barcelona, Sp.
- 3/22 Paper due on Modernism. Introduction to Environmentalism.  
Start *Silent Spring*.
- Environmentalism**
- 3/27 Read Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, x-102. Important Film.
- 3/29 Read Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 103-153. If you read 129-153, you may skip part of the next assignment. Reports on:
1. Dangerous mosquitoes: yellow fever & Cuba or Panama, malaria esp. in Africa and Asia, west Nile Virus.
  2. The Alar or swine flu scare, and the role of the F.D.A
- 4/3 *Silent Spring*, 153-98. If you read 129-153, you may skip ch. 10 or ch. 11. Reports on:
1. The first earth day
  2. The promise of DDT in the 1940s and 1950s
  3. Recent evaluations of DDT.

4/5 *Silent Spring*, 199-end. Everyone has to bring discussions questions.

### FEMINISM

4/10 Papers due on environmentalism. Introduction to Feminism. Who is Gloria Steinem?

4/12 Gloria Steinem, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*,  
1. "I Was a Playboy Bunny," 32-75.  
2. "If Men Could Menstruate," 366-69.  
3. "In Praise of Women's Bodies," 176-82.

4/17 Read Steinem, 128-60, 214-223, 255-61.

4/19 Read Steinem, 303-27. Read the Beijing declaration (1995) at this website [ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm> ]  
. Decide what articles of the declaration Steinem would really, really like as well as which ones she did not think of in her book, which she wrote from 1963 to 1986. Reports on:  
1. widow immolation or sati.  
2. pornography (Andrea Dworkin).

4/24 Steinem, 262-302, 332-365. Reports on  
1. foot binding  
2. genital mutilation  
3. the wearing of Burkahs or purdah,

4/26 Spots, exam explanation, review.

#### Course Requirements:

- A. Daily, active participation with a maximum of 2 absences—15%\*
- B. Two five-page papers on assigned topics—25%
- C. Oral Report and annotated bibliography—15%
- D. Email Report on reading—5%
- E. Final Exam—35%
- F. Extra Credit—Up to 5 Points.

**\*\*\* To pass this course, you must pass the final exam and hand in all assigned work in a form acceptable to the instructor.\*\*\***

You may take one Opt Out and do something for each of the other 4 Units—including 2 five-page papers, one email commentary, and one oral report. You may do one extra email report for extra credit. You must write at least one paper before March 1.

---

\* Attendance Standards: The following adjectives describe first-rate participation and attendance: Prompt, courteous, informed, self-motivated, curious.

**Course Planning and Personal Grade Report**

1. Capitalism Unit
  - a. Paper?
  - b. Oral Report?
  - c. E-Mail report?
  - d. Opt Out
2. Communism Unit
  - a. Paper?
  - b. Oral Report?
  - c. E-Mail report?
  - d. Opt Out]
3. Modernism Unit
  - a. Paper?
  - b. Oral Report?
  - c. E-Mail report?
  - d. Opt Out
4. Environmentalism Unit
  - a. Paper?
  - b. Oral Report?
  - c. E-Mail report?
  - d. Opt Out
5. Feminism Unit
  - a. Paper?
  - b. Oral Report?
  - c. E-Mail report?
  - d. Opt Out