

The Rise and Fall of Progressivism

E55.2079 Spring 2007 Gabriel Moran

Course Description

A study in the philosophy, politics and education of the period known as the progressive era. The course concentrates on John Dewey's philosophy and educational theories as representative of the time. Dewey's own writings are highlighted as well as some of his disciples and some of his critics.

Course Purposes

1. To provide an historical and philosophical understanding of the progressive movement in the first half of the twentieth century.
2. To do a close reading of several of John Dewey's philosophical and educational writings
3. To evaluate where reforms of the progressive era have left education today.

Course Sequence

I. Background of Progressive Movement

Jan 18: Introduction

Jan. 25: Rodgers, **A**Progressive Politics@
Cremin, **A**Progressive Movement@
Karp, **A**Political Origins of Progressivism@

Feb. 1: Lasch, **A**Womans Movement@
Menand, **A**Metaphysical Club@
Martin, Education of John Dewey
McGeer, **A**Sex and Feminism@

2. Philosophical and Political Currents, 1890-1930

Feb 8: Dewey, **A**Ethics@ch. 1
Dewey, **A**Christianity and Democracy,@

Feb. 15: White, **A**Progressives and World War I@
Barry. World War I
Hofstadter, **A**Progressivism and War@
Dewey, **A**Force and Coercion@

Bourne, Twilight of Idols

3. Educational Writing, 1890-1930

Feb. 22: Dewey, **A**My Pedagogic Creed@

Dewey, **A**Child and Curriculum@

Egan, Getting It Wrong from the Beginning

Mar. 1: Dewey, **A**Schools of Tomorrow, ch 1"

Westbrook, **A**D:Education: Early,

McGeer, **A**Education and Children's Welfare@

**Discussion of Democracy and Education

4. Philosophical and Political Currents, 1930-1960

Mar 8: Dewey, **A**Autobiographical Essay, 1930"

Dewey, Ethics, Conclusion

Mar 22: Dewey, **A**Common Faith, ch 1"

Westbrook, **A**Dewey vs. Niebuhr@

Dewey, **A**Religion and Our Schools@

Humanist Manifesto

5. Educational Writing, 1930-60.

Mar 29: Dewey, **A**Experience and Education@

Westbrook, JD: Education Later@

Apr. 5: Dewey, **A**Use of Resources@

Counts, **A**Are the School@

Graham, Progressive Education

6. Legacy of Progressivism

Apr. 12: Ryan, **A**Critics of Dewey@

Cremin, **A**Progressive Education Assessed@

McCormick, Progressivism Assessed

Ross, Social Control

Apr. 19: Ravitch, Left Back: Conclusion

Bestor, **A**Educational Wastelands@

Mumford, Golden Day

Apr. 26: Review of Dewey

Discussion of Papers

Course Reading

John Dewey, Democracy and Education. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996 (1916)

Assigned readings above are online: www.nyu.edu/classes/gmoran

A six page bibliography is also online.

Course Writing

There will be a written exercise at the beginning of each class session. It will be a question on the reading for that week. I will comment on what you write but it will not be graded. File these exercises; the final exam will be based on these questions that you have already answered.

A term paper of 10-15 pages on a philosophical or educational question that John Dewey struggled with. Focus on a single issue from Democracy and Education that brings out the meaning of progressivism. Provide a summary of Dewey's handling of the question and what alternatives there might be. Indicate how Dewey might have changed his view over time. Cite some writing of his critics.

Title of the paper: Feb 8

First Draft of the paper: Mar 8

Final Draft of the paper: April 13

Course grade is based about equally on the term paper and the final exam

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Many of John Dewey's works are cited from: The Early Works 1882-1898; The Middle Works 1899-1924; The Later Works 1925-1953. Ed. Jo Ann Boydston. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1967-

CLASS PARTICIPANTS: