

POLITICS/AMERICAN STUDIES 200
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM – AMERICAN STYLE
Professor Peter Dreier
Spring 2021

Class Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-10 am
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 -11:30 am and by appointment.

Email: dreier@oxy.edu

Zoom Meeting <https://occidental.zoom.us/j/85050855340>

Passcode: 723180

What This Course is About

According to a 2019 Gallup poll, 43% of all Americans, and 58% of those between 18 and 34, believe that socialism would be a “good thing” for the country. But when people say they support the idea of socialism, what do they mean? Or do they even know what they mean?

This course will examine the idea of democratic socialism from several angles.

- We will look at socialism as an idea – as a philosophy about human nature and society.
- We will look at the history and current status of socialism as a social movement – a political battle fought in workplaces, communities, and elections – to change both the culture and public policy.
- We will look at socialism as a set of public policies and practices designed to make the U.S. a more humane and inclusive society.
- We will look at socialism in comparative context, reviewing what socialists in other countries have and have not accomplished.
- We will look at the status of socialism in the United States today in terms of its impact on our culture and our political life, including the recent controversy over the role that socialism played in the 2020 elections. (Basically: Did the Democrats go too far left, not far left enough, or something else?).

- We will look at what democratic socialism might look like in practice in the United States and what kind of steppingstone reforms might move the society closer to those goals.
- We will look at what critics of socialism have said in the past, and today, about both the idea and practice of socialism.

Books to Purchase

You should purchase the following books, available through the college bookstore or online from independent booksellers. All are in paperback:

- Danny Katch, Socialism...Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation, Haymarket Books, 2015
- Michael Kazin, American Dreamers: How the Left Change a Nation, Knopf, 2011
- Anu Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything: In Search of a Better Life, Harper Publishers, 2016
- Kate Aronoff, Peter Dreier, and Michael Kazin, editors, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style, The New Press, 2020
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto, International Publishers (originally published in 1848)

One of the following:

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Herland, Dover Thrift Editions (originally published in 1915)
- Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia, Banyan Tree Books (originally published in 1975)

Website Readings

Many of the readings and videos for this course will be found on the Moodle website. It is each student's responsibility to get these readings from the website. Please download them so you can mark them up as well as bring them to

class. There are many separate articles from magazines, newspapers, journals and other sources, so it may take time to download them each week. Make sure you have enough time to do this.

Course Requirements and Grades

I want you to become informed, confident, and engaged citizens of the world. Your effective and strategic action stems from a strong foundation of critical thinking skills. I want you to understand the amount of time, the commitment to analysis, and the depth of thinking it takes to consider any topic or issue thoroughly. In the end, I wish for you to become skilled, deep, and confident thinkers. Every aspect of this course is designed to build these skills and habits because, in the long run, the person you become at the end of this class—or at the end of your career at Oxy—matters more than any grade you receive. In sum, I hope you become less focused on letter grades and instead that you become completely obsessed with developing these skills and habits and cultivating your intellectual identity.

That said, I also see value in grades. They are a measurement of your engagement with the ideas and materials in the course as well as the skills you bring to those assignments, so I take them very seriously.

Your grade will be based on the following:

1. 50% of your grade will be based on your class participation. The success of this course depends on class discussions. Students are expected to do the readings on time and participate in class discussions. When doing the reading, think about the issues you want to discuss in class. I encourage students to debate and disagree — but to do so based on information and evidence as well as your own values. **Every student should come to class with three questions or comments about the readings, films, and videos for that class sessions.** The questions can be about the following: (1) Something you didn't understand; (2) Something you didn't agree with; (3) Something you want to discuss in class because it seems like an interesting topic.

2. 25% of your grade will be based on a midterm exam. This will be a take-home essay exam based on the readings, videos, and films. Instead of a mid-term, students have the option of writing a paper (7-10 pages) based on reading a biography of an important participant in America's socialist movement in the 20th and 21st century. I will provide a list of names and biographies, but if you want to write about someone who isn't on the list, I need to approve it. The theme of the

paper should be what one can learn about socialism from this person's life, ideas, and participation in the movement. The paper is due Tuesday, March 16.

3. 25% of your grade will be based on a final exam. This will be a take-home essay exam based on the readings, videos, films, and guest speakers for the entire semester. first half of the course. It will be handed out on Tuesday, April 27 and due (via email to me) on Thursday, May 6.

Publications and Web Sites to Learn More

The internet is a great way of connecting to the larger worlds of public policy, politics, and culture. There are many magazines, journals, and web sites that deal with the issues we will be discussion in this course. Here is brief list. I encourage you to bookmark them so you can find them easily.

Dissent, *Jacobin*, and *In These Times* are publications about politics and culture from a socialist perspective. Democratic Socialists of America (<https://www.dsusa.org>) and People's Policy Project (<https://www.peoplespolicyproject.org/>) provide analysis from a socialist perspective.

The Nation, *American Prospect*, *The Guardian*, *Yes!*, *Color of Change*, *The Progressive*, and *Teen Vogue* are publications about politics and culture from a progressive perspective. The Campaign for America's Future (<http://www.ourfuture.org>), the Economic Policy Institute (<http://www.epi.org>), The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (<https://www.cbpp.org/>), Local Progress (<http://localprogress.org>), and the Center for American Progress (<http://www.americanprogress.org>) are think tanks that provide analysis from a progressive perspective.

The New Republic, *The Atlantic*, and *Salon* are publications about politics and culture from a liberal perspective. The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program (<http://www.brookings.edu/metro.aspx>), the Urban Institute (<http://www.urban.org>), and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (<http://www.cbpp.org>) are think tanks that provide analysis from a liberal perspective.

The National Review, *The Bulwark*, *Reason*, and the *Washington Times* are publications about politics and culture from a conservative perspective. The Cato Institute (<http://www.cato.org>), the Heritage Foundation

(<http://www.heritage.org>), and the American Enterprise Institute (<http://www.aei.org>) are think tanks that provide analysis from a conservative perspective.

Support Services

A variety of support services are available here at Occidental College to ensure that you excel in your academic and social development. <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/academic-support>

Writing Support Services

We can all use help sharpening our writing skills. I strongly encourage you to utilize the writing support services provided by the Writing Center: <https://www.oxy.edu/writing-center>

Occidental Sexual Misconduct Policy and Resources

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/resources-support/project-safe/resources>

Title IX statement, and statement of role of faculty member as a mandatory reporter ([Link](#) to Title IX)

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual or interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual harassment, federal and state education laws require that, as your instructors and designated Responsible Employees, we notify the Title IX office. They will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at Oxy and reporting options both on and off-campus.

If you do not want the Title IX Office notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructors, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

- *Marianne Frapwell, Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE*
(survivoradvocate@oxy.edu)
- *Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)**
- *Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life*
(young@oxy.edu)

**Emmons can also help you locate resources out-of-state.*

The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>.

Special Accommodations/Learning Differences ([Link to Disability Services](#))

- Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience ([Link to the policy in Catalog](#))

- Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website: <https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

The Emmons Health and Counseling Center is available for assistance with **medical and mental health problems**. Visit their website for information on specific services provided: <http://departments.oxy.edu/emmons/>

Academic Ethics

Students are expected to comply with the Student Handbook, in particular the section on Academic Ethics. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Oxy's policies regarding academic ethics and plagiarism found in the student handbook or on the library website: <http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics> or <http://www.oxy.edu/center-academic-excellence/writing-center/citing-sources>. Whether intentional or unintentional, no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. Any student

caught cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the judicial examiner on the FIRST offense.

Whenever outside sources are used, they must be properly credited. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Stealing a scholar's or colleague's ideas—or words—is like any other form of theft. Moreover, it is an extreme sign of disrespect to scholars who labor long and hard to craft their ideas and arguments.

In our experience, students resort to plagiarism and cheating when they feel overwhelmed or ill-prepared to meet the course requirements or standards. Whether they feel intellectually inadequate or they simply have not cleared enough time to accomplish the degree of sophistication required, they believe that cheating is the only way out. They are wrong. Even if, at times, they are able to pass off another's work as their own and get a good grade, they have failed to grow up and learn how to become an adult who thinks for him/herself and who takes responsibility for his/her intellectual contributions. When they are discovered (which will happen eventually if cheating becomes a habit), they seriously jeopardize their standing at Oxy. I urge you, therefore, to address the root causes and anxieties that might prompt you to cheat. Please consider us (and your other faculty and your advisor) a resource—come see us at the first sign of trouble. In the long run, it will save time and distress.

Less regularly, students plagiarize without knowing that they have committed an offense. Most often they use internet or outside sources without citing them properly or without citing them at all. Ignorance, however, is not a viable excuse.

TOPICS AND READINGS

(Except for the books, the readings and videos are available on the class Moodle site. NYT = New York Times. LAT = Los Angeles Times).

Introduction and Orientation (Tuesday, January 19)

Before the first class:

Watch: Alexandria Ocasio Cortez on *The Late Show with Steven Colbert*, June 29, 2018 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_1G4_oPt_o (6 minutes)

Read: Brooks, "I Was Once a Socialist. Then I Saw How It Worked," NYT, December 5, 2019 <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/opinion/socialism-capitalism.html>

Watch: Sanders, "Bernie Sanders Defines His Vision For Democratic Socialism In the United States," June 2019

- Video: https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/06/12/watch_live_bernie_sanders_speech_defining_democratic_socialism_as_the_only_way_to_defeat_oligarchy.html (45 minutes)
- Transcript: <https://www.vox.com/2019/6/12/18663217/bernie-sanders-democratic-socialism-speech-transcript>

Read: Raleigh, "How to Debate a Democratic Socialist," *The Federalist*, September 28, 2018 <https://thefederalist.com/2018/09/28/heres-successfully-debate-democratic-socialist/>

Watch: "How Europeans See America," NYT, October 28, 2019 (4 minutes) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/28/opinion/europeans-view-americans.html>

The Current Debate Over Socialism (Thursday, January 21)

Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: Senator Bernie Sanders vs Senator Rand Paul (May 11, 2011) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUXwDMqjC-A>

Watch this 2-minute video before coming to class; Cong. Ron Paul on health care at the Republican presidential debate, September 13, 2011)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T9fk7NpgIU>

Watch this 90-second video before coming to class; Cong. Rep. Brooks: Sick people should pay more (May 2, 2017)

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2017/05/02/rep-mo-brooks-pre-existing-conditions-lead.cnn>

Watch this 13-minute video before coming to class; Jimmy Kimmel reveals details of his son's birth and heart disease (May 1, 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmWWoMcGmo0>

Watch this 8 minute segment of the January 16, 2012 Republican presidential debate in South Carolina (from 24:35 through 33:01) before coming to class:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y66pS8gLdfg>

Watch this 5-minute video before class: “Rand Paul on The Case Against Socialism” <https://reason.com/video/stossel-the-case-against-socialism/>

Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: “The Decades-Long Republican Strategy of Tying Democratic Proposals to ‘Socialism’” (5 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ysw8_9NjWvk

Watch this 30-second video before coming to class: Clinton to Sanders: “We Are Not Denmark” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wQpAIXAX2k\>

Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: “Bernie Sanders' American Dream is in Denmark”: <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/17/politics/bernie-sanders-2016-denmark-democratic-socialism/>

Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, editors, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style. Read the following chapters:

- Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, “Introduction”
- Dreier and Kazin, “How Socialists Changed America”

Judis, “Socialism Old and New” (from John Judis, The Socialist Awakening, 2020, pages 15-37)

Allitt, “America is Socialist, Dummy” (Spectator, April 2020) <https://spectator.us/america-socialist-dummy/>

Younis, “Four in 10 Americans Embrace Some Form of Socialism,” Gallup Poll, May 20, 2019 <https://news.gallup.com/poll/257639/four-americans-embrace-form-socialism.aspx>

Nilsenella, “Democrats Are Already At Odds Over How To Win In 2022,” Vox, November 13, 2020 <https://www.vox.com/21562362/house-democrats-2020-election-aoc-spanberger>

Dreier, “The Number Of Democratic Socialists In The House Will Soon Double. But The Movement Scored Its Biggest Victories Down Ballot,” Talking Points Memo, December 11, 2020 <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafes/number-democratic-socialists-congress-soon-double-down-ballot-movement-scored-biggest-victories>

Waxman, “Socialism Was Once America's Political Taboo. Now, Democratic Socialism Is a Viable Platform. Here's What to Know,” Time, October 24, 2018 <https://time.com/5422714/what-is-democratic-socialism/>

What Is Capitalism? (Tuesday, January 26)

Watch this 26-minute video before coming to class: “Why Democratic Socialism Is Gaining Popularity in the United States” <https://portside.org/video/2019-08-09/why-democratic-socialism-gaining-popularity-united-states> (August 9, 2019) (26 minutes)

Watch this 7-minute video before coming to class: “Why Socialism A Dirty Word in America” (7 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EB5FVvT_jxw

Watch this 6-minute video before coming to class: “Wealth Inequality in America” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=QPKKQnijnsM>

Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto (1848), pages 1-31

Kelly, “What Capitalism Is and How It Affects People,” Teen Vogue, April 11, 2018 <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/what-capitalism-is>

Adler, “Introduction: The Argument” and “Six Crises” in Adler, [The 99% Economy: How Democratic Socialism Can Overcome the Crises of Capitalism](#), 2019, pages 1-20)

Miller, “The U.S. is the Most Overworked Developed Nation in the World” <https://20somethingfinance.com/american-hours-worked-productivity-vacation/>
Marc Benioff, “We Need a New Capitalism,” NYT, October 14, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/opinion/benioff-salesforce-capitalism.html>

Svart, “Capitalism Isn't 'Broken'. It's Working All Too Well - And We're the Worse For It,” Guardian, June 12, 2019
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/12/capitalism-isnt-broken-its-working-all-too-well-and-were-the-worse-for-it?CMP=share_btn_link

Weeks, “Looking for the Symbol of Racial Capitalism? Look No Further Than Amazon,” The Forge, June 17, 2020
<https://forgeorganizing.org/article/looking-symbol-racial-capitalism-look-no-further-amazon>

White, “Wall Street Minted 56 Billionaires Since the Pandemic Hit – But Many Families Are Left Behind,” NBC, December 30, 2021
<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/wall-street-s-best-year-ever-why-pandemic-has-been-n1252512>

Human Nature, Individualism, Competition, and Cooperation - 1 (Thursday, January 28)

Bertrand Russell, “In Praise of Idleness” (1932) <https://www.thoughtco.com/in-praise-of-idleness-by-russell-1690283>

Schwartz, “The Grocery Store Where Produce Meets Politics,” New Yorker, November 18, 2019 <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/11/25/the-grocery-store-where-produce-meets-politics>

Wuest, “Mutual Aid Can’t Do It Alone,” The Nation, December 28, 2020
<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/mutual-aid-pandemic-covid/>

Human Nature, Individualism, Competition, and Cooperation – 2 (Tuesday, February 2)

Watch this 5-minute video before class: “How We Live” (7-minute video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIzV_r398dU

Watch this 5-minute video before class: “Defying the Crisis - The Spanish Collective Mondragón”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaJ1hfVPUe8&feature=youtu.be>

Watch this 7-minute video before class: “Evergreen Cooperatives”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt_ZHUDhKjs (7 minutes)

Watch this 3-minute video before class: “How Evergreen Cooperative is Changing Lives” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axX4RY265rA>

Watch this 22-minute video before class: “Own The Change: Building Economic Democracy One Worker Co-op at a Time”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G1-SYMatNc>

Watch this 17-minute video before class: “Go Co-op”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em9YQzDTReo&feature=youtu.be>

Goodman, “Co-ops in Spain’s Basque Region Soften Capitalism’s Rough Edges,” NYT, December 29, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/29/business/cooperatives-basque-spain-economy.html>

Bamburg, “Mondragon Through a Critical Lens,” Fifty by Fifty, October 3, 2017
<https://medium.com/fifty-by-fifty/mondragon-through-a-critical-lens-b29de8c6049>

Nembhard “The Cooperative Solution,” Shelterforce, October 2, 2014
https://shelterforce.org/2014/10/02/the_cooperative_solution

Moskowitz, “Meet the Radical Workers’ Cooperative Growing in the Heart of the Deep South,” The Nation, April 24, 2017)
<https://www.thenation.com/article/meet-the-radical-workers-cooperative-growing-in-the-heart-of-the-deep-south/>

Renwick, "Fed-Up Tenants Take Over," LAT, August 15, 1994
<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1994-08-15-me-27324-story.html>

Linton, "Community Land Trusts: An Overlooked Model for L.A. Housing Affordability," StreetsBlogLA, August 3, 2017
<https://la.streetsblog.org/2017/08/03/community-land-trusts-an-overlooked-model-for-l-a-housing-affordability/>

Blumgart, "Affordable Housing's Forever Solution," The Next City, August 10, 2015
<https://nextcity.org/features/view/affordable-housings-forever-solution>

Thompson, "A Low-Cost Ownership Oasis in a Desert of Apartment Unaffordability," Shelterforce, May 7, 2018
<https://shelterforce.org/2018/05/07/a-low-cost-ownership-oasis-in-a-desert-of-apartment-unaffordability/>

Socialism: The Basics - 1 (Thursday, February 4)

Katch, Socialism...Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation (pages vii-67)

Martin Luther King, "Address at the Conclusion of the Selma to Montgomery March," March 25, 1965
<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/address-conclusion-selma-montgomery-march>

Socialism: The Basics - 2 (Tuesday, February 9)

Katch, Socialism...Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation (pages 71-158)

The Origins and Development of American Socialism (Thursday, February 11)

Watch this film before class: "The Big Scary 'S' Word" (80 minutes)
<https://vimeo.com/493862892>. Password: socialism.

Guest speaker: Yael Bridge, producer and director, "The Big Scary 'S' Word"

Kazin, American Dreamers: How the Left Change a Nation, Knopf, 2011, pages xi to 67 ("Introduction," "Freedom Songs, 1820s-1840s," and "The Halfway Revolution, 1840s-1870s ")

The Rise of the Socialist Party (Tuesday, February 16)

Watch this film before class: “Eugene Debs and the American Movement” (43 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnTRlp-7Nt4>

Kazin, American Dreamers: How the Left Change a Nation, Knopf, 2011, pages 68-154 (“The Salvation of Labor, 1870s-1890s” and “A Tale of Three Socialisms, 1890s-1920s”)

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of:

- Florence Kelley
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Alice Hamilton
- Margaret Sanger
- Helen Keller
- Alice Stokes Paul

Dreier, “What Milwaukee Can Teach the Democrats about Socialism? (Dissent, May 8, 2019) https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/what-milwaukee-can-teach-the-democrats-about-socialism

"The Socialist Party's Platform, 1912"

<http://sageamericanhistory.net/progressive/docs/SocialistPlat1912.htm>

Dreier, “One Hundred Years Ago, Eugene Debs Gave An Anti-War Speech That Landed Him in Prison,” CommonDreams, June 18, 2018

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/06/18/one-hundred-years-ago-eugene-debs-gave-anti-war-speech-landed-him-prison>

Debs, “Address to the Court” - Cleveland, Ohio - September 18, 1918.

http://www.emersonkent.com/speeches/address_to_the_court.htm

Varieties of American Socialism (Thursday, February 18)

Watch this 2-minute video before coming the class: “Red Scare and Palmer Raids” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zywzzl9AiU> (2 minutes)

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of:

- W.E.B. DuBois
- Lewis Hine
- Rose Schneiderman
- Roger Baldwin

Ellsworth, "Organizing the Organized: The Origins of the Nonpartisan League," The Organizer, Summer 1981

Dreier, "Yellow Brick Road was Primrose Path," Boston Globe, July 14, 1985

Watch this video: "The Farmer is the Man" (2 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coj1v8FM2Cs>

Read the lyrics: <https://mudcat.org/@displaysong.cfm?SongID=6261>

Note: This song's origins go back to the Populist movement of the 1880s, when it appeared in Farmers Alliance songbooks and was sung by Farmers Alliance glee clubs.

Dreier and Flacks, "Patriotism and Progressivism," Peace Studies, Vol. 15, No. 4, 2003 <http://www.peterdreier.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Patriotism-and-Progressivism.pdf>

Corcione, "International Women's Day 2018: The History of IWD's Socialist Roots," Teen Vogue, March 8, 2018 <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/international-womens-day-2018-the-history-of-iwds-black-feminist-and-socialist-roots>

Jones, "Something To Offer," Jacobin, August 11, 2015 <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/08/debs-socialism-race-du-bois-socialist-party-black-liberation>

Sanchez, "When American Christians Were Socialists," Sojourners, August 9, 2019 <https://sojo.net/articles/when-american-christians-were-socialists>

American Socialism, the Depression, and the New Deal (Tuesday, February 23)

Watch this film before class: "We Have a Plan"

<https://depts.washington.edu/epic34/video.shtml> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BcShxauDgk>

Kazin, American Dreamers: How the Left Change a Nation, Knopf, 2011, pages 155-208 (“The Paradox of American Communism”)

Cohen, “Introduction” (from Nothing to Fear: FDR’s Inner Circle and the Hundred)

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of:

- Franklin Roosevelt
- Upton Sinclair
- Norman Thomas
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Frances Perkins
- Floyd Olson

Radical Culture and Consciousness – 1 (Thursday, February 25)

Listen to these songs (and read the lyrics) before coming to class:

- "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries" - (lyrics by Lew Brown, music by Ray Henderson, sung by Rudy Vallee, 1931)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc6RS9e3Dhw> (3 minutes) Lyrics: <https://genius.com/Rudy-vallee-life-is-just-a-bowl-of-cherries-lyrics>
- "We're In the Money" - (lyrics by Al Dubin, music by Harry Warren, sung by Ginger Rogers in 1933 film, “Gold Diggers of 1933”)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJOjTNuuEVw> (2 ½ minutes)
Lyrics: <https://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/42ndstreet/wereinthemoney.htm>
- “Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?” (by A.Y. Harburg and Jay Gorney, 1932)
Sung by Bing Crosby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eih67rlGNhU> (3 minutes)
Sung by Al Jolson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4F4yT0KAMyo> (3 minutes)
Lyrics: <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/bingcrosby/brothercanyouspareadime.html>
- “I Don’t Want Your Millions, Mister” (Jim Garland, 1930s)

Sung by the Almanac Singers (3 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_9DlclYBGU

Lyrics: <https://www.lyricsera.com/1142930-lyrics-all-i-want.html>

- "Which Side Are You On?" (by Florence Reece, 1931)

Sung by Pete Seeger: (2 ½ minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IjZAIp6lMM>

Lyrics: <https://genius.com/Pete-seeger-which-side-are-you-on-lyrics>

- "Roll the Union On" -- (by John Handcox, 1937)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4YeDI4R9MA> (2 minutes)

Lyrics: <http://unionsong.com/u008.html>

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of:

- Sidney Hillman
- A.J. Muste
- Fiorello La Guardia
- Philip Randolph
- Harry Bridges
- Langston Hughes
- Myles Horton
- Walter Reuther
- Woody Guthrie

Radical Culture and Consciousness - 2 (Tuesday, March 2)

Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty* (a play written in 1935)

Utopian Socialism (Thursday, March 4)

Reports from student reading groups:

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Herland

Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia

Spring Break – March 8 - 12

The Red Scare and the Cold War - 1 (Tuesday, March 16)

Watch this film before class: “Hollywood on Trial” (105 minutes)

<https://washingtonbabylon.com/babylon-at-the-movies-hollywood-on-trial/>

Watch this film before class: “Red Nightmare”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of_eApe5VIU (30 minutes)

Schrecker, “More Than Just a Man: Anti-Communist Political Repression Went Far Beyond Senator Joseph McCarthy,” PBS, December 5, 2019

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/mccarthy-more-than-just-a-man/>

Anonymous, “The Persecution of My Father,” PBS, December 17, 2019

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/mccarthy-persecution-my-father/>

Lader, Power on the Left

- Chapter 1 - “The Campaign Against Labor and the Left”
- Chapter 2 - “Vito Marcantonio and the Congressional Battleground”
- Chapter 3 - “The Left’s Challenge to Truman”

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of:

- Paul Robeson
- Harry Hay
- Studs Terkel
- Arthur Miller
- C. Wright Mills
- Pete Seeger

The Red Scare and the Cold War - 2 (Thursday, March 18)

Watch one of these films before class: “McCarthy” (2 hours) OR “Paul Robeson: Here I Stand” (2 hours) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUki-v-NvoE>

Watch this video and read the lyrics: “Strange Fruit,” written by Abel Meeropol and sung by Billie Holiday <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9FZMHNhJ80> (10 minutes) Lyrics: https://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/billie+holiday/strange+fruit_20017859.html

Listen (and read the lyrics) to the song “Little Boxes,” written in 1962 by Malvina Reynolds, which became a hit for Pete Seeger a year later. (3 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUwUp-D_VV0. Lyrics: <https://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/MALVINA/mr094.htm>

Godeanu-Kenworthy, “How socialism became un-American through the Ad Council’s propaganda campaigns,” *The Conversation*, February 27, 2020 <https://theconversation.com/how-socialism-became-un-american-through-the-ad-councils-propaganda-campaigns-132335>

Margolick, “Strange Fruit,” *Vanity Fair*, September 1998 <https://www.ladyday.net/stuf/vfsept98.html>

Lader, Power on the Left

- Chapter 4 - “The Wrath of the Prophets: Henry Wallace and the Progressive Party, 1948”
- Chapter 5 - “The Purge of the CIO Left, 1948-50”
- Chapter 6 - “Destroying the Communist Party”: The 1949 Party”
- Chapter 7 - “A Cowed and Frightened People: The Agony of Radicalism, 1950-55”

Out of the Cold: The Civil Rights Movement, the New Left, Feminism, and Beyond (Tuesday, March 23)

Kazin, American Dreamers: How the Left Change a Nation, Knopf, 2011, pages 209-278 (“Not With My Life, You Don’t, 1950s-1980s” and “Rebels Without a Movement, 1980s-2010”)

Jones, “The Forgotten Radical History of the March on Washington,” *Dissent*, Spring 2013 <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/the-forgotten-radical-history-of-the-march-on-washington>

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of

Fame. Read profiles of:

- Ella Baker
- Bayard Rustin
- Betty Friedan
- Gloria Steinem
- Tom Hayden
- Bob Dylan

Harrington, “What Socialists Would Do in America – If they Could” (Dissent, Fall 1978) <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/what-socialists-would-do-in-america-if-they-could>

This is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 1 (Thursday, March 25)

Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything

This is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 2 (Tuesday, March 30)

Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything

This Is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 3 (Thursday April 1)

Watch this two-hour Michael Moore film, “Where to Invade Next,” before coming to class. It was made in 2015.

Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: “How Europeans See America” (NYT, October 28, 2019)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/28/opinion/europeans-view-americans.html>

Jones, “After I Lived in Norway, America Felt Backward. Here’s Why,” The Nation, January 28, 2016 <https://www.thenation.com/article/after-i-lived-in-norway-america-felt-backward-heres-why/>

Francis, “It’s Better to be Poor in Norway Than in the US,” Christian Science Monitor, April 14, 2005 <https://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0414/p17s02-cogn.html>

Weller, “American Cops Can't Go A Day Without A Gun Death — Here's How Norway Went 10 Years Without One,” August 2, 2015

<https://www.businessinsider.com/norway-america-police-killing-comparison>

Partanen, "Finland is a Capitalist Paradise," NYT, December 7, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/07/opinion/sunday/finland-socialism-capitalism.html>

Henley, "It's a Miracle': Helsinki's Radical Solution to Homelessness," Guardian, June 3, 2019 https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/jun/03/its-a-miracle-helsinkis-radical-solution-to-homelessness?CMP=share_btn_link

Oltermann, "Berlin's Rental Revolution: Activists Push For Properties To Be Nationalized," Guardian, April 4, 2019
https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/apr/04/berlins-rental-revolution-activists-push-for-properties-to-be-nationalised?CMP=share_btn_link

Orange, "How Stockholm Became the City of Work-Life Balance," Guardian, May 22, 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/may/22/how-stockholm-became-the-city-of-work-life-balance>

Greenhouse, "If the French Can Do It, Why Can't We?" NYT, Nov. 14, 1993
<https://www.nytimes.com/1993/11/14/magazine/if-the-french-can-do-it-why-can-t-we.html>

Abrams and Hounanian, "5 Countries That Know How to Handle Student Debt," The Nation, August 4, 2016 <https://www.thenation.com/article/five-countries-that-know-how-to-handle-student-debt/>

Alderman and Greenhouse, "Living Wages, Rarity for U.S. Fast-Food Workers, Served Up in Denmark," NYT, October 27, 2014
<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/28/business/international/living-wages-served-in-denmark-fast-food-restaurants.html>

Goodman, "The City That Cycles With the Young, the Old, the Busy and the Dead," NYT, November 19, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/09/world/europe/biking-copenhagen.html>

Goodman, Cohen and Chaundler, "European Workers Draw Paychecks. American Workers Scrounge for Food," NYT, July 3, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/business/economy/europe-us-jobless-coronavirus.html>

Huber, "How Did Europe Avoid the COVID-19 Catastrophe Ravaging US

Meatpacking Plants?” Mother Jones, June 13, 2020
<https://www.motherjones.com/food/2020/06/meatpacking-plants-covid-hotspots-europe-regulations-line-speed/>

Etehad and Lin, “The World is Getting Better at Paid Maternity Leave. The U.S. is Not,” Washington Post, August 13, 2016
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/08/13/the-world-is-getting-better-at-paid-maternity-leave-the-u-s-is-not/>

Milman, “US Cosmetics are Full of Chemicals Banned By Europe – Why?” The Guardian, May 22, 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/may/22/chemicals-in-cosmetics-us-restricted-eu>

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? - 1 (Tuesday, April 6)

Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style. Read the following chapters:

- Flynn, Holmberg, Warren, and Wong, “Toward a Third Reconstruction”
- Hamilton, “A Three-Legged Stool for Radical and Economic Justice”
- Cha, “We the People: Voting Rights, Campaign Finance, and Election Reform
- Kuttner, “Confronting Corporate Power”
- Dayen, “Building the People’s Banks”
- Gupta, Lerner, and McCartin, “Democracy, Equality, and the Future of Workers”

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? – 2 (Thursday, April 8)

Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style. Read the following chapters:

- Stahl, “Who Gets to Be Safe? Prisons, Police, and Terror”
- Chen, “On Immigration: A Socialist Case for Open Borders
- Nagaraja, “War from Above, Solidarity from Below – On Foreign Policy”
- Roberts, “What Does Health Equity Require? Racism and the Limits of Medicare for All”)

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? – 3 (Tuesday, April 13)

Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style. Read the following chapters:

- Klein, “Democratic Socialism for a Climate-Changed Century”
- Sugrue, “Livable Cities: Housing, Transportation, and Public Spaces for All”

Korten, “Eight Essential Steps to Transform Our Economy,” Open Democracy, July 23, 2019 <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/transformation/eight-essential-steps-transform-our-economy/>

Dreier, “Why America Needs More Social Housing,” American Prospect, April 16, 2018 <https://prospect.org/infrastructure/america-needs-social-housing/>

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? – 4 (Thursday, April 15)

Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style. Read the following chapters:

- Leonard, “The Family of the Future”
- Noguera, “Defending and Improving Public Education”
- Zirin, “Reclaiming Competition: Sports and Socialism”
- Fiorentini, “What About a Well-Fed Artist? Imagining Cultural Work in Democratic Socialist Society”
- Walzer, “Afterward: A Day in the Life of a Socialist Citizen”

How Do Socialists Govern? – 1 (Tuesday, April 20)

Watch “Knock Down the House,” a 90-minute documentary about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes’ campaign for Congress, before class

Dreier and Clavel, “What Kind of Mayor Was Bernie Sanders?” The Nation, June 2, 2015 <https://www.thenation.com/article/bernies-burlington-city-sustainable-future/>

Karlamangla, “What You Need to Know About Gov. Newsom’s Drug Plan For California,” LA Times, January 9, 2020

https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-01-09/q-a-newsom-prescription-drug-plan?_amp=true

Kendall, “Moms 4 Housing Victory: Group Gets Chance to Buy House Through Nonprofit,” San Jose Mercury-News, January 20, 2020.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/01/20/moms-4-housing-victory-group-gets-chance-to-buy-house-through-nonprofit/>

Golden, “Blow To Amazon As Seattle Socialist Looks To Have Triumphed In Key Vote,” Guardian, November 9, 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/nov/09/seattle-amazon-kshama-sawant-socialist-elections>

Sato, “What Does It Mean to Have Six Democratic Socialists on the Chicago City Council?” Better Government Association, July 2, 2019

<https://www.bettergov.org/news/what-the-gov-what-does-it-mean-to-have-six-democratic-socialists-on-the-chicago-city-council/>

Lutz, “Chicago's Democratic Socialists Promise Change as They Take Office,”

Guardian, June 29, 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/29/chicago-democratic-socialists-city-council-local-politics>

Connor and Smith, “Imagine: If Mayor de Blasio Really Were a Socialist,”

Truthout, January 2, 2014 <https://truthout.org/articles/imagine-if-mayor-de-blasio-really-were-a-socialist/>

Stockman, “How One Socialist Lawmaker Is Trying to Change His State’s Pro-Business Policies,” NYT, January 16, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/16/us/lee-carter-amazon-micron.html>

Featherstone, “The Socialists Vs. Andrew Cuomo,” The Nation, December 22,

2020 <https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/dsa-cuomo-new-york/>

How Socialists Govern – 2 (Thursday, April 22)

Guest Speaker: **Nithya Raman**, member of the Los Angeles City Council

Fleischer, “Nithya Raman Is About To Show Us Just How Progressive Los Angeles Really Is,” LAT, December 13, 2020

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-12-13/nithya-raman-progressive-los-angeles>

“LA Councilwoman Nithya Raman Seeks To Strengthen Tenant Harassment Ordinance,” LA Daily News, April 13, 2021 <https://www.dailynews.com/2021/04/13/la-councilwoman-nithya-raman-seeks-to-strengthen-tenant-harassment-ordinance/>

Reyes, “L.A. Could Roll Back Move To Ticket Sidewalk Vendors Who Lack Permits,” LAT, March 23, 2021 <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-03-23/los-angeles-sidewalk-vending-coronavirus-pandemic>

Dreier, “The Number Of Democratic Socialists In The House Will Soon Double. But The Movement Scored Its Biggest Victories Down Ballot,” Talking Points Memo, December 11, 2020 <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/number-democratic-socialists-congress-soon-double-down-ballot-movement-scored-biggest-victories>

Cohen, “Progressives Help Progressives – Across City Lines,” American Prospect, January 13, 2020 <https://prospect.org/politics/progressives-help-progressives-across-city-lines>

Pastor, Thomas, and Dreier, “LAANE Brain: Understanding the Model and Future of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy” in David Reynolds and Louise Simmons, editors, Seeking Social Justice and Progressive Power: The Partnership for Working Families Cities, Routledge Press, forthcoming 2021

American Politics, DSA, and the Socialist Movement Today (Tuesday, April 27)

Mellins, “Socialist Elected Officials Are Changing the Way New York State Politics Are Done: An Interview with Emily Gallagher,” Jacobin, April 1, 2021 <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/04/emily-gallagher-socialist-elected-officials-new-york-state-politics>

Katz, “From Brooklyn to Buffalo: Socialists Are Organizing to Tax the Rich,” Indypendent, March 15, 2021 <https://indypendent.org/2021/03/from-brooklyn-to-buffalo-socialists-are-organizing-to-tax-the-rich/>

Quig, “City Council’s socialists see themselves as an antidote to the status quo,” Crain’s Chicago Business, February 18, 2021
<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/craains-forum-future-capitalism/city-councils-socialists-see-themselves-antidote-status-quo>

Miles, “Why I Joined DSA: To Agitate the Agitators,” Detroit Socialist, March 5, 2020 <https://medium.com/dsa-detroit-newspaper/why-i-joined-dsa-to-agitate-the-agitators-758ce57e2590>

“Bringing an EcoSocialist Green New Deal to DSA-LA,” Los Angeles DSA, October 19, 2019 <https://dsa-la.org/campaigns-and-projects/bringing-an-ecosocialist-green-new-deal-to-los-angeles/>

Dreier, “The Number Of Democratic Socialists In The House Will Soon Double. But The Movement Scored Its Biggest Victories Down Ballot,” Talking Points Memo, December 11, 2020 <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/number-democratic-socialists-congress-soon-double-down-ballot-movement-scored-biggest-victories>

Chackin, “A New Vision for DSA: The Socialist Voice in a Progressive United Front,” Socialist forum, Winter 2021
<https://socialistforum.dsausa.org/issues/winter-2021/a-new-vision-for-dsa-the-socialist-voice-in-a-progressive-united-front/>

Justin Charles, Maikiko James, and Natalie Midiri, “DSA After Trump,” Socialist Forum, Winter 2021 <https://socialistforum.dsausa.org/issues/winter-2021/dsa-after-trump/>

Duhalde, “Localize It,” Socialist Forum, Winter 2021
<https://socialistforum.dsausa.org/issues/winter-2021/localize-it/>

Final: Wrap-Up - Is Democratic Socialism in America’s Future? (Tuesday, May 4 – instead of an in-class final)

Watch “Knock Down the House,” a 90-minute documentary about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes’ campaign for Congress, before class

Listen to this song: “Bread and Roses” - 1912 (3 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEffTvbVqmc>

Read the lyrics while listening to the song:

http://www.protestsonglyrics.net/Inspirational_Songs/Bread-and-Roses.phtml

Listen to this song: Judy Collins, “Pass It On” - 1964 (45 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjYxo0JGpCk>

Listen to this song: Diana Jones, “We Believe You” – 2020 (4 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11W34zTfZ8Q>

Aronoff, Dreier, and Kazin, editors, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style. Read the following chapters:

- Dreier and Kazin, “How Socialists Changed America” (re-read)
- Meyerson, “How Socialism Surged, and How It Can Go Further”

McIntosh, “Talking Socialism: Catching Up with AOC,” Democratic Left, Spring 2021 <https://democraticleft.dsausa.org/issues/spring-2021/talking-socialism-catching-up-with-aoc/>

Carville, “Wokeness Is a Problem and We All Know It,” Vox, April 27, 2021 <https://www.vox.com/22338417/james-carville-democratic-party-biden-100-days>

Day, “Why Socialists Should Fight for Structural Reforms,” Socialist Forum, Fall 2018 <https://socialistforum.dsausa.org/issues/fall-2018/why-socialists-should-fight-for-structural-reforms/>

Meyerson, “Labor After Bessemer,” American Prospect, April 12, 2021 <https://prospect.org/labor/labor-after-bessemer/>

Guida, “Biden’s Latest Stimulus Plan: Reducing Inequality,” Politico, April 14, 2021 <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/04/biden-stimulus-plan-reduce-inequality-478991>

Burgis, "Get Ready to Fight Joe Biden," Jacobin, January 20, 2021
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/01/joe-biden-inauguration-democrats-socialism>

Gitlin, "The Democratic Left Needs Biden To Succeed. Stop Trashing The Winner And Help Him Deliver," USA Today, December 21, 2020
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/12/21/left-should-help-biden-democrats-deliver-for-america-column/3955164001/>

Vanden Heuvel, "Biden is Facing a Roosevelt Moment," Washington Post, March 30, 2021 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/30/biden-is-facing-roosevelt-moment/>

Levitz, "Biden's Vision for 'Care Infrastructure' Needs More Socialism," New York, April 8, 2021 <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/04/biden-infrastructure-at-home-care-seniors.html>

"The America We Need," NYT, April 9, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-inequality-america.html>