

**POLITICS 200 and AMERICAN STUDIES 200
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM – AMERICAN STYLE
Professor Peter Dreier
Spring 2022**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:50 am to 1 pm
Email: dreier@oxy.edu**

**Class Sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 to 9:55 am
Johnson 303**

We will have a few class sessions via Zoom. Here is the Zoom link and passcode:

Zoom link: <https://occidental.zoom.us/j/84762971022>

Passcode: 707819

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”

-- Rev. Martin Luther King

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 recent 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 or a paper. The midterm exam will be a take-home essay 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 midterm or paper are due on Thursday, March 24.

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. It will be handed out on Thursday, April 28 and due (via email to me) on Friday, May 6 by 3 pm.

Keeping Up With the News

I encourage students to get in the habit of reading a daily newspaper. The most useful papers are the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. You can get a subscription to any of these publications, buy some of them in the bookstore, read them in the library, or read them on-line. There are also many publications (with websites) that look at politics and policy from a particular perspective -- conservative, moderate, liberal, progressive, libertarian, religious, feminist, environmental, and others. Here are a few of them:

Dissent, *Jacobin*, and *In These Times* are publications about politics and culture from a socialist perspective. Democratic Socialists of America (<https://www.dsausa.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 Roosevelt Institute (<https://rooseveltinstitute.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.

Office Hours and One-on-One Meetings

My office hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:50 am to 1 pm. I expect each student to have at least one meeting with me during the first half of the semester (before spring break) and one meeting with me during the second half of the semester. But you can schedule additional meetings with me as well. During office hours, you can discuss any issues, questions, or concerns you have about the class. Or you can use the office hours simply to introduce yourself and let me know how you're doing at Oxy or what you're doing outside of Oxy.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is a shared community value. It is built around trust and respect between members of the Occidental Community, and embodies a commitment to honesty and integrity in every aspect of one's academic life.

All members of the Occidental community are committed to uphold the highest degree of academic integrity. Unless stipulated otherwise, the academic work done for all assignments is expected to be the student's own, and students give proper credit to the ideas and work of others.

Signing the Academic Integrity Commitment at matriculation and at the beginning of every semester represents a student's affirmation to uphold the shared values of honesty and integrity. When signing the Integrity Commitment associated with

work in a course, students are affirming that they have not cheated, plagiarized, fabricated, or falsified information; nor assisted others in these actions.

You should be familiar with the college's policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. I take these issues very seriously and so should you. Students are expected to comply with the Student Handbook, in particular the section on [Academic Ethics](#) and [Academic Misconduct](#).

Sexual Misconduct

Based on the federal [Title IX](#) law, 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, as a designated Responsible Employee, I must 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 instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

- Oxy's 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)
- The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. If you would like to contact the Title IX Office directly, you can email Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at afulcher@oxy.edu or call 323-259-1338.

Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience

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>

Academic Support Services

The College has a wide range of [Student Academic Support Resources](#). If you'd like to take advantage of the College's Academic Coaching resource, which offers one-on-one sessions focused on supporting your time management skills, online learning strategies, and other study skills, you may schedule an academic coaching meeting by sending an email to academiccoaching@oxy.edu. Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.

The Library's Teaching, Learning, and Research Support (TLRS) offers [library research consultations](#). It also offers offer peer-to-peer support for learning technologies in the Critical Making Studio on the ground floor of the library (contact dcoaguila@oxy.edu for more information).

Peer Tutors are available to assist students on [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#), and content review and study skills support in a variety of academic departments. Information about tutoring for all subject, including languages, can found at: <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/student-success/peer-learning>

The Writing Center offers opportunities to work on all forms of writing for any class or other writing tasks such as personal statements, proposals, senior comprehensives, etc. We offer peer-to-peer consultations with knowledgeable Writing Advisers and sessions with Faculty Writing Specialists. For Spring 2022, most appointments will be synchronous in-person sessions, with some availability for Zoom virtual meetings and asynchronous feedback. The Writing Center is located on the ground floor of the Academic Commons. See the [Writing Center website](#) for more information about our hours and how to sign up for appointments. Please contact the Writing Center Director, Prof. Prebel (jprebel@oxy.edu; x1307) for more information on how the Writing Center can work with you.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation policy:

I strive to foster an inclusive classroom environment. Consistent with College policy on [discrimination, harassment, and retaliation](#), I seek to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community. Please talk to me if you have any concerns about this.

Students with Disabilities/Learning Differences

Accommodation of disability-related needs is available. Please let me know if you need some kind of accommodation. 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 the 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 accessibility@oxy.edu to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>

Intercultural Community Center (ICC)

The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) seeks to uplift and support the experiences of students who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, low income or first-generation college students. The ICC also aims to reduce institutional barriers for minoritized groups through intersectional programming, identity-specific services and structural resources. To learn more, contact icc@oxy.edu, or reach out directly to Chris Arguedas, at carguedas@oxy.edu.

Lived Name Policy

Occidental College seeks to provide an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment by making it possible for students to use [a lived first name](#) and pronouns on college records when a legal name is not required. Students are encouraged to use Zoom to display their lived name and pronouns. These can be set at <https://occidental.zoom.us/profile>.

COVID/Emmons/ Student Health

Your health and well-being, and that of our community, are essential. If you are feeling any symptoms of illness, even if they are slight, please refrain from attending class until explicitly cleared by Emmons. Similarly, if you have a known exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please do not return to class until Emmons confirms that you are cleared to participate in your usual activities.

Symptoms such as anxiety, depression, loss of motivation, difficulty concentrating, and strained relationships can occur any time, and these are heightened during the pandemic. Emmons Counseling staff are committed to

supporting the mental health needs of all of our students, regardless of where you're located. Emmons provides virtual walk-ins, crisis support, and consultation to all students, and ongoing individual telecounseling to students residing in California. All students residing outside of California will have access to ongoing telecounseling through a national telecounseling service. Emmons also assists students with finding local therapy referrals. All students continue to have access to the 24/7 confidential hotline at (323) 341-4141. To get connected to any of the free, confidential services at Emmons call (323) 259-2657 or schedule an appointment online at <https://myhealth.oxy.edu> using your Oxy login credentials.

Family Involvement

As many of you are learning from home this semester, you may have family around who are willing and able to provide you with support. While general support is necessary and welcomed by many, in order to protect your academic growth and ensure the integrity of this course, this statement serves as a reminder that your work must be your own. While office hours are always available for students, they will not be available for parents/guardians/family members. As always, if your parent/guardian has concerns, they are welcome to [contact the Dean of Students office](#).

Recordings

No recording of classroom instruction is permitted, except by the professors, but I will not be recording the class discussions. The sharing, altering, or distorting of any audio-visual capture of a class session is not permitted.

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 25) (remote)

Please come to the first class on January 25 prepared to discuss the following three videos and three readings:

- 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)
- Watch: “How Europeans See America,” *New York Times*, October 28, 2019 (4 minutes) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/28/opinion/europeans-view-americans.html>
- Watch: Bernie Sanders, “Bernie Sanders Defines His Vision For Democratic Socialism In the United States,” June 2019 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) (Here’s the transcript of Sanders’ speech if you prefer to read rather than watch it: <https://www.vox.com/2019/6/12/18663217/bernie-sanders-democratic-socialism-speech-transcript>)

Brooks, “I Was Once a Socialist. Then I Saw How It Worked,” *NYT*, December 5, 2019

Raleigh, “How to Debate a Democratic Socialist,” *The Federalist*, September 28, 2018

deBoer, “Democratic Socialists Need to Take a Hard Look in the Mirror,” *NYT*, November 16, 2021

The Current Debate Over Socialism (Thursday, January 27) (remote)

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)

Younis, “Four in 10 Americans Embrace Some Form of Socialism,” Gallup Poll, May 20, 2019

Nilsenella, “Democrats Are Already At Odds Over How To Win In 2022,” Vox, November 13, 2020

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

Arnold, “What Is Democratic Socialism and Why Is It So Popular?” Teen Vogue, May 1, 2020

What Is Capitalism? (Tuesday, February 1)

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 Is 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>

Watch this 8-minute video before coming to class: “The Top 1%: Should Wealth Have Its Limits?” CBS News, January 22, 2022 <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-top-one-percent-should-wealth-have-its-limits>

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

Kelly, “What Capitalism Is and How It Affects People,” Teen Vogue, April 11, 2018

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”

Marc Benioff, “We Need a New Capitalism,” NYT, October 14, 2019

Svart, “Capitalism Isn't 'Broken'. It's Working All Too Well - And We're the Worse For It,” Guardian, June 12, 2019

Weeks, “Looking for the Symbol of Racial Capitalism? Look No Further Than Amazon,” The Forge, June 17, 2020

White, “Wall Street Minted 56 Billionaires Since the Pandemic Hit – But Many Families Are Left Behind,” NBC, December 30, 2021

Tomasky, “The Right Wants to Freedom Us to Death,” New Republic, December 6, 2021

Holloway, “‘Feel-Good’ News Story or Poverty Propaganda?” The Nation, October 1, 2021

Work and Labor (Thursday, February 3)

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

Bertrand Russell, “In Praise of Idleness” (1932)

Scheiber, “Taking on Starbucks, Inspired by Bernie Sanders,” *NYT*, January 14, 2022

Co-operation and Individualism (Tuesday, February 8)

Watch this 5-minute video before class: “How We Live”
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

Bamburg, “Mondragon Through a Critical Lens,” Fifty by Fifty, October 3, 2017

Nembhard “The Cooperative Solution,” Shelterforce, October 2, 2014

Schwartz, “The Grocery Store Where Produce Meets Politics,” New Yorker, November 18, 2019

Renwick, “Fed-Up Tenants Take Over,” LAT, August 15, 1994

Linton, “Community Land Trusts: An Overlooked Model for L.A. Housing Affordability,” StreetsBlogLA, August 3, 2017

Blumgart, “Affordable Housing’s Forever Solution,” The Next City, August 10, 2015

Thompson, “A Low-Cost Ownership Oasis in a Desert of Apartment Unaffordability,” Shelterforce, May 7, 2018

Socialism: The Basics - 1 (Thursday, February 10)

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

Ivin, “What Working-Class and Poor White People Need to Understand About Rich

White People,” Medium, August 15, 2018

Socialism: The Basics - 2 (Tuesday, February 15)

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

The Origins and Development of American Socialism (Thursday, February 17)

Watch this film before class: “The Big Scary ‘S’ Word” (80 minutes)

<https://vimeo.com/493862892>. Password: socialism.

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 22)

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

"The Socialist Party's Platform, 1912"

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

Debs, "Address to the Court" - Cleveland, Ohio - September 18, 1918

Varieties of American Socialism (Thursday, February 24)

Watch this 2-minute video before coming the class: "Red Scare and Palmer Raids"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zywzzl9AiU>

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

Corcione, "International Women's Day 2018: The History of IWD's Socialist Roots," Teen Vogue, March 8, 2018

Jones, "Something To Offer," Jacobin, August 11, 2015

Sanchez, "When American Christians Were Socialists," Sojourners, August 9, 2019

American Socialism, the Depression, and the New Deal (Tuesday, March 1)

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

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BcShxauDgk> (53 minutes)

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>

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

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of any 10 of the following 15 people:

- Franklin Roosevelt
- Upton Sinclair
- Norman Thomas
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Frances Perkins
- Floyd Olson
- Sidney Hillman
- A.J. Muste
- Fiorello La Guardia
- Philip Randolph
- Harry Bridges
- Langston Hughes
- Myles Horton
- Walter Reuther
- Woody Guthrie

Radical Culture and Consciousness – (Thursday, March 3)

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

Spring Break – March 7-11

Utopian Socialism (Tuesday, March 15)

Reports from student reading groups:

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Herland

Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia

The Red Scare and the Cold War - 1 (Thursday, March 17)

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

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

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 (Tuesday, March 22)

Watch this film before class: “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.
<https://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/MALVINA/mr094.htm>

Lyrics:

Godeanu-Kenworthy, “How Socialism Became Un-American Through The Ad Council’s Propaganda Campaigns,” The Conversation, February 27, 2020

Margolick, “Strange Fruit,” Vanity Fair, September 1998

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 (Thursday, March 24)

Watch this film before class: “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin” (83 minutes)

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

Dreier, “Martin Luther King Was a Radical, Not a Moderate,” Portside, December 30, 2021

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

- Ella Baker
- Bayard Rustin
- Betty Friedan
- Michael Harrington
- Gloria Steinem

- Tom Hayden
- Bob Dylan

This is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 1 (Tuesday, March 29)

Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything

This is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 2 (Thursday, March 31)

Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything

This Is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 3 (Tuesday April 5)

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

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

Francis, “It’s Better to be Poor in Norway Than in the US,” Christian Science Monitor, April 14, 2005

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

Partanen, “Finland is a Capitalist Paradise,” NYT, December 7, 2019

Henley, “‘It’s a Miracle’: Helsinki's Radical Solution to Homelessness,” Guardian, June 3, 2019

Oltermann, “Berlin's Rental Revolution: Activists Push For Properties To Be Nationalized,” Guardian, April 4, 2019

Goodman, Cohen and Chaundler, “European Workers Draw Paychecks. American Workers Scrounge for Food,” NYT, July 3, 2020

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

Meatpacking Plants?" Mother Jones, June 13, 2020

Alderman and Greenhouse, "Living Wages, Rarity for U.S. Fast-Food Workers, Served Up in Denmark," NYT, October 27, 2014

Orange, "How Stockholm Became the City of Work-Life Balance," Guardian, May 22, 2019

Greenhouse, "If the French Can Do It, Why Can't We?" NYT, Nov. 14, 1993

Etehad and Lin, "The World is Getting Better at Paid Maternity Leave. The U.S. is Not," Washington Post, August 13, 2016

Abrams and Hounanian, "5 Countries That Know How to Handle Student Debt," The Nation, August 4, 2016

Goodman, "The City That Cycles With the Young, the Old, the Busy and the Dead," NYT, November 19, 2019

Milman, "US Cosmetics are Full of Chemicals Banned By Europe – Why?" The Guardian, May 22, 2019

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? - 1 (Thursday, April 7)

Watch this video before coming the class: "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote"
<https://www.bravenewfilms.org/suppressed> (38 minutes)

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"

Evening speakers event: E.J. Dionne and Miles Rapoport will be discussing their new book, *100% Democracy: The Case for Universal Voting*, at 7 pm in Choi Auditorium

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? – 2 (Tuesday, April 12)

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 (Thursday, April 14)

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

Dreier, “Why America Needs More Social Housing,” *American Prospect*, April 16, 2018

What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? – 4 (Tuesday, April 19)

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 (Thursday, April 21)

Watch “Knock Down the House,” about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes’ campaign for Congress, before class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCSo2hZRcXk> (85 minutes)

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

*Dreier, “From Organizer to Elected Official,” *The Nation*, September 9, 2008 <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/organizer-elected-official/>

*Remnick, “Is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez An Insider Now?” *New Yorker*, February 14, 2020 <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-new-yorker-interview/is-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-an-insider-now>

*Burns, “Meet the New Generation of ‘Sidewalk Socialists,’” *In These Times*, September 28, 2021 <https://inthesetimes.com/article/sidewalk-socialists-municipal-socialism-dsa-city-council>

*Featherstone, “New York’s Democratic Socialists Are Playing the Long Game,” *Jacobin*, January 11, 2022 <https://jacobinmag.com/2022/01/democratic-socialism-new-york-long-game-nyc-dsa-state-politics>

*Kluever, “How Socialism Stopped Being a Dirty Word for Some Voters – And Started Winning Elections Across America,” *The Conversation*, May 5, 2021 <https://theconversation.com/how-socialism-stopped-being-a-dirty-word-for-some-voters-and-started-winning-elections-across-america-156572>

*Albaledejo, “Maria Elena Durazo Talks Pandemic-Era Gains for Workers and the Undocumented,” *Capital & Main*, March 30, 2022 <https://capitalandmain.com/maria-elena-durazo-talks-pandemic-era-gains-for-workers-and-the-undocumented>

*Nichols, “These Progressives Fought the Good Fight in 2021—and Gave Us Hope for 2022,” *The Nation*, January 10, 2022

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/2022-honor-roll>
*Dreier, “Progressive Wins: Voters Supported Down-Ballot Reforms And Candidates That Address Racism, Police Abuse, Mass Incarceration,” Talking Points Memo, November 12, 2020
<https://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/progressive-wins-voters-widely-approved-down-ballot-reforms-candidates-address-racism-police-abuse-mass-incarceration>

How Socialists Govern – 2 (Tuesday, April 26)

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

*Nithya Raman biography: <https://councildistrict4.lacity.org/about/nithya-raman>

*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>

Kang, “Who Really Controls Local Politics?” NYT, October 11, 2021
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/11/opinion/raman-housing-los-angeles.html>

*Ward, “L.A. City Councilmember Nithya Raman: 'We Don't Have Shelter Beds Available,'” LA-list, December 16, 2021 <https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/we-dont-have-shelter-beds-available-says-la-city-councilmember-nithya-raman-homelessness>

*Lank, “Strange Days: Nithya Raman's first year on the L.A. City Council,” Eastsider, February 1, 2022
https://www.theeastsiderla.com/news/government_and_politics/strange-days-nithya-ramans-first-year-on-the-l-a-city-council/article_e63c78c0-822e-11ec-ad9e-973c2de5f574.html

American Politics, DSA, and the Socialist Movement Today (Thursday, April 28)

Watch (again) 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)

*”DSA Political Platform,” DSA Convention, 2021 <https://www.dsausa.org/dsa-political-platform-from-2021-convention/>

*Herndon, “2020 Democrats Import Grassroots Activism Into Their Campaign Staffs,” NYT, March 18, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/18/us/politics/2020-democrats-activism.html>

*Dreier, “The Decade in 11 Movements,” American Prospect, January 8, 2020 <https://prospect.org/civil-rights/the-decade-in-11-movements/>

*Dowd, “Still Feeling the Bern,” NYT, April 14, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/16/opinion/bernie-sanders-democratic-policies.html?smid=em-share>

*Rubinstein and Glueck, “Socialists’ Response to War in Ukraine Has Put Some Democrats on Edge,” NYT, March 8, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/08/nyregion/dsa-nato-ukraine-russia.html>

*Scheiber, “Taking On Starbucks, Inspired by Bernie Sanders,” NYT, January 17, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/14/business/economy/starbucks-union.html?smid=em-share>

*Segers, “The Democrats Are Caught in a Policy Doom Loop,” New Republic, March 18, 2022 <https://newrepublic.com/article/165788/progressives-executive-power-supreme-court>

Chretien, “Portland, Maine Voters Delivered a Series of Huge Working-Class Victories on Election Day,” Jacobin, November 17, 2022

<https://jacobinmag.com/2020/11/portland-maine-working-class-referendum-people-first-portland-2020-election>

*“Voting Should Be Easy. Why Isn’t It?” NYT, October 18, 2018

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/18/opinion/registration-vote-midterms.html>

*Leonhardt, “If Liberals Voted,” NYT, June 20, 2017

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/20/opinion/voter-turnout-democrats-republicans.html>

*Dionne and Rapoport “What If Everyone Voted? The Case For 100 Percent

Democracy,” Washington Post, March 23, 2022
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/03/23/universal-voting-would-end-legal-battles-over-ballot-access/>

Final: Wrap-Up - Is Democratic Socialism in America’s Future? (Tuesday, May 3 – instead of an in-class final)

- 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”

*Kelly, “What Does the Word Radical Mean?” Teen Vogue, March 22, 2022
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/what-does-word-radical-mean>

*Marantz, “The Youth Movement Trying to Revolutionize Climate Politics,” New Yorker, March 7, 2022
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/03/07/the-youth-movement-trying-to-revolutionize-climate-politics>

*Nichols, “These Progressives Fought the Good Fight in 2021—and Gave Us Hope for 2022,” The Nation, January 10, 2022
<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/2022-honor-roll/>

*Greenhouse, “Is Organized Labor Making a Comeback?” The Atlantic, April 4, 2022
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/04/how-build-union-victory-amazon-staten-island/629464/>

*Leon, “The Rank-and-File Organizers Who Took On Amazon,” American Prospect, April 5, 2022
<https://prospect.org/labor/rank-and-file-organizers-who-took-on-amazon/>

*“America Needs Some Repairs. Here’s Where to Start,” NYT, July 2, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/opinion/sunday/income-inequality-solutions.html>

*Millhiser, "11 Ways To Fix America's Fundamentally Broken Democracy," Vox, September 14, 2020 <https://www.vox.com/21336225/voting-rights-senate-electoral-college-gerrymandering-supreme-court>

*Griffin, Frey, and Teixeira, "America's Electoral Future: The Coming Generational Transformation," Brookings Institution, October 19, 2020 <https://www.brookings.edu/research/americas-electoral-future-the-coming-generational-transformation/>

*Homans, "Where Does American Democracy Go From Here?" NYT, March 17, 2022 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/03/17/magazine/democracy.html>