

*J. Curran*

June 10, 1942

Mr. Peter F. Drucker  
19 Bayberry Street  
Bronxville, New York

Dear Mr. Drucker,

Thank you for your letter about the preliminary catalogue statement. Your point about the course in Political Economy is noted and the corrections made. The second course, American Economic and Social History, we were considering as an advanced Senior Division course. The heading under which it appeared was a mistake in typing. I agree with you that it might reasonably be put under Special Studies but we wanted to emphasize the importance of advanced work of this kind for non-majors who have had adequate background. You can determine for yourself what background is necessary to admit students to the course.

As to history, I agree that that preliminary draft had too little stress on history. Mr. McCamy has devised a second course, which was not in the copy you saw, which gives the history of political institutions and ideas very much along the lines of Mr. Mendershausen's second course. We have written to Mr. Brockway and suggested that he do one course for advanced students on some aspect of world politics centering on American foreign policy, and for his second course he is to say whether he thinks American history is most needed, and if so, what kind of American history. I believe his experience has been that students have had a lot of American history in school and cannot be induced to think it interesting if it is so labeled in the first two years of college. We are going to make a statement somewhere in the catalogue pointing out that students do not as a rule develop real historical imagination and interest until they know a good deal about certain specific things that interest them. We hope that all the basic courses will stimulate much more interest in history than has been characteristic of Bennington students. If so, there will be more demand than there has been in the past for "straight" history courses. Mr. Troy is re-stating the content of some of the basic courses to make the historical emphasis, which is there in every case, stand out more. We may have to send you another draft or proof of your courses before the thing goes to the printer. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Jones  
For the Catalogue Committee

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