

MR. DRUCKER'S PROPOSED CLASSES FOR YEAR 1943-44

POLITICAL ECONOMY - Basic Course

This course meets the general need for a better understanding of the background of political and philosophical ideas behind the present world situation. It attempts to cover a limited number of general topics through reading and class discussion; and although stress is laid on the acquisition of specific factual knowledge, this knowledge will be closely related to the historical development of social and political ideas from which the facts derive their meaning.

This course will be offered in two sections: one primarily designed for junior division students, one for older students majoring in other fields who, although new to the field, are willing and able to do independent and mature work.

In the first section the emphasis will be on the understanding of the historical background of our society. To this end two or three concrete topics will be studied. I intend to begin with industry (our society being an industrial society). At first the class will work at acquiring the minimum factual knowledge -- mainly economic geography of the United States with some technology. We shall then discuss the historical growth of American industry: where the industries are, when they got there, and why, which will lead us into general work in American economic and social history. We shall then work on the Industrial Revolution and will compare the industrial society of our times with non-industrial societies, both of earlier times and outside of Western civilization. This will lead us to the political and social problems of an industrial society.

The second topic will be the Law and the law courts, leading to a discussion of the political function of the judiciary in American constitutional law and tradition. There will be some work on the common law: some chapters of Holmes' Common Law, Dean Pound's Spirit of the Common Law, maybe a chapter or two of Blackstone, and a reading of some famous decisions, some jurisprudence on the role and function of law (texts to be used will range from Bentham to Mr. Justice Holmes and Mr. Justice Cardozo, and will include anthropological material like the books by Maine and Llewellyn as well as some philosophy of law). We shall then turn to the function of the courts in the American government. Beginning with the discussion of the functions of the judiciary and of the Constitution we shall work in American constitutional and political history and in the theory and practice of government. The main texts apart from a constitutional history of the United States, such as McLaughlin's, will be Supreme Court decisions and the Federalist Papers, etc.

The last topic -- if we have time enough to work at it -- will be a discussion of money and banking, both in its economic and its social and political aspects.

The second section of the basic course will be organized in such a way as to give each student an opportunity to work in the second semester on a larger, individual project. Hence, the first semester will be devoted to discussion of some major field such as, for instance, the problem of economic and social security. The second semester students will work on the report to be given in class either, as this year, on political theories and their application to our present day society and its problems or on basic political and social institutions which would be studied both historically and from the point of view of political thought.

SPECIAL STUDIES

Below are listed two Special Studies courses in political economy from which the E.P.C. will have to choose one as needed most within our curriculum next year, since with two basic courses on my hands I cannot undertake to teach more than one Special Studies course. The first of the courses would be for senior students and it is a course I, personally, would want most to teach.

1. American Political Thought - An advanced course dealing intensively with the American tradition in political thinking - with references both to the basic Western tradition and to the actual political problems of American society. Texts studied will be Hamilton, Jefferson, Taylor of Caroline, Fisher Ames, the two Adams, Clay, Jackson, Calhoun, the Populist Tradition, Henry and Brooks Adams, Henry George, Veblen, Henry James and Supreme Court decisions. The course will be conducted as a seminar and can be taken in connection with a tutorial. Prerequisites: Political Economy or Backgrounds of American Thought, and at least one other course in this field.

2. Social and Economic History Since the Industrial Revolution - An intermediate course dealing with the development of our society and our economic system since the middle of the eighteenth century. The material used will be both European and American. We shall start with the Industrial Revolution in England and the simultaneous development of an agrarian society in this country, and will then discuss the transformation of this agrarian into an industrial society. Prerequisites: Political Economy or American History, or Modern European History.