Syllabus

This course will examine the ways in which the understanding of power within the United States has changed and been contested from the nation's founding through the present day. The conceptualization of power in this course is a broad one, including questions of citizenship, language, and the nature of the American polity.

Course grades will depend on one take-home midterm (45%) and one take-home final (55%).

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) can be found on electronic reserves.

The Institutionalization of Power
Tom Paine, "Common Sense"*
The Declaration of Independence*
Articles of Confederation*
Publius, The Federalist #1, 6, 9, 10, 14, 23, 39, 51, 69, 70, 78*
Anti-Federalist Papers #1-3, 6, 9, 14, 22, 40, 51, 69, 70, 78, 79*
The Constitution of the United States of America*

What is America?
John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity"*
Daniel Webster, "The Second Reply to Hayne"*
John C. Calhoun, "Slavery is a Positive Good"*
The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*
John L. O'Sullivan, "Introduction", "The Great Nation of Futurity"*
Abraham Lincoln, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions", Speech at Peoria, First Inaugural Address, Gettysburg Address, Second Inaugural Address*

The Force of the Market
William Jennings Bryan, The "Cross of Gold" Speech*
Vachel Lindsay, "Bryan, Bryan, Bryan, Bryan"*
Herbert Marcuse, One-Dimensional Man (selections)

Race, Freedom, & Equality
W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk (selections)
Malcolm X w/Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X (entire)

Gender, Money, & Power
Seneca Falls Conference, "Declaration of Sentiments"*
Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (entire)
Susan Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?"*

We Wrestle Not With Flesh and Blood
Woodrow Wilson, Request for War*
X, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct"*
Barack Obama, "Nobel Lecture"*