

**POLITICS/AMERICAN STUDIES 200**  
**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM – AMERICAN STYLE**  
**Professor Peter Dreier**  
**Spring 2020**

**Class Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-10 am, Johnson 203**

**Office: Urban & Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI)**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 am to 1 pm and by  
appointment.**

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### **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?

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 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 what it means for the 2020 elections. We will look at what 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 at the college bookstore:

- Danny Katch, Socialism...Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation, 2015

- John Nichols, The “S” Word: A Short History of An American Tradition: Socialism, updated edition, 2015
- Anu Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything: In Search of a Better Life, 2016
- Kate Aronoff, Peter Dreier, and Michael Kazin, editors, We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism – American Style, 2020

One of the following:

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Herland, originally published in 1915
- Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia, 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. I will collect them at the end of every class session.

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, films, and guest speakers for the first half of the course.

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 Thursday, April 30 and due on Thursday, May 7.

### **Laptops and Cellphones**

Cell phones and all other electronic devices are to be turned off or put on silent during class. Additionally, they are to be put away to avoid distraction. Texting is not permitted. Laptops can be used only for taking notes and related classroom assignments.

### **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>

## **Academic Ethics**

You should be familiar with the college's policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. I take these issues very seriously and so should you. Read full policy statement here:

<http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics/academic-ethics>

### *Plagiarism Defined*

Plagiarism occurs when the ideas, organization, or language of another are incorporated into one's work without properly crediting the original source with a citation or other disclosure. It includes re-writing or re-formatting material without acknowledging the original source of the ideas. Even if the language and organization are in the student's own words, any ideas or information that are not common knowledge must be acknowledged in a reference. Students are responsible for knowing and using the correct procedures for acknowledging and identifying sources of borrowed material. Failure to properly credit sources in all or part of work presented in draft or final form to anyone is plagiarism, regardless of whether it occurs as a result of dishonest intent or carelessness and regardless of the course credit attached to it. As a student scholar, if you:

- Quote directly from a source: you must enclose the quoted material, even if it is no more than a phrase or a single distinctive word (such as a neologism), within quotation marks, and provide a reference.
- Paraphrase, i.e., restate the material in your own words: (a) the paraphrasing must represent a substantial change from the original, not just the changing of occasional words and phrases, and (b) you must provide a reference.
- Present material that is common knowledge but borrow someone else's organizational pattern: you must acknowledge that borrowing in a reference.

Penalties for academic misconduct are severe (see "Academic Misconduct"), and ignorance of the principles and policies concerning cheating and plagiarism is not a defense. Students with any doubts at all about whether an action or piece of academic work involves academic misconduct should consult their instructors before committing the action or submitting the work.

## **Disability Services**

Please let me know if you need accommodation. Students with documented disabilities 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. Students who experience significant physical or

mental impairments can contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support.

### **Occidental Sexual Misconduct Policy and Resources**

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

### **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 discussing in this course. Here is a 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.

## TOPICS AND READINGS

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

### Introduction and Orientation (Tuesday, January 21)

Alexandria Ocasio Cortez on *The Late Show with Steven Colbert*, June 29, 2018)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_1G4\\_oPt\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_1G4_oPt_o)

### The Current Debate Over Socialism - 1 (Thursday, January 23)

- 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/>

Younis, "Four in 10 Americans Embrace Some Form of Socialism" (Gallup Poll, May 20, 2019)

Kelly, "What Capitalism Is and How It Affects People" (Teen Vogue, April 11, 2018)

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

Coyne, “Book Review: 'The Case Against Socialism'” (Washington Times, November 6, 2019)

### **The Current Debate About Socialism – 2 (Tuesday, January 28)**

- 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EB5FVvT_jxw)
- 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ysw8_9NjWvk)
- 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>
- 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/>
- 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)

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)

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”

Dreier, “How Democrats Should Respond to the GOP’s Red-Baiting” (The Nation, May 28, 2019)

Isserman, “Socialists in the House: A 100-Year History from Victor Berger to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez” (The Nation, November 8, 2018)

### **Human Nature, Individualism, Competition, and Cooperation - 1 (Thursday, January 30)**

- 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](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> (3 minutes)
- 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>

Bamburg, “Mondragon through a Critical Lens” (Fifty by Fifty, October 3, 2017)

“New Report Highlights Lessons From Mondragon - The World’s Largest Worker Co-op” (Young Foundation, May 2019)

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

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)

### **Human Nature, Individualism, Competition, and Cooperation: – 2 (Tuesday, February 4)**

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

Moskowitz, “Meet the Radical Workers’ Cooperative Growing in the Heart of the Deep South” (The Nation, April 24, 2017)

### **Human Nature, Individualism, Competition, and Cooperation – 3 (Thursday, February 6)**

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

### **Socialism: The Basics - 1 (Tuesday, February 11)**

Katch, Socialism...Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation

### **Socialism: The Basics - 2 (Thursday, February 13)**

Katch, Socialism...Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation

### **How Do Socialists Govern? (Tuesday, February 18)**

Dreier, “What Milwaukee Can Teach the Democrats about Socialism?” (Dissent, May 8, 2019)

Dreier and Clavel, “What Kind of Mayor Was Bernie Sanders?” (The Nation, June 2, 2015)

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

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

Golden, “Blow to Amazon as Seattle Socialist Looks to Have Triumphed in Key Vote” (Guardian, November 9, 2019)

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

Lutz, “Chicago's Democratic Socialists Promise Change as They Take Office” (Guardian, June 29, 2019)

Connor and Smith, “Imagine: If Mayor de Blasio Really Were a Socialist” (Truthout, January 2, 2014)

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

DePillis, “Meet the Lefty Club Behind a Blitz of New Laws in Cities Around the Country” (Washington Post, January 4, 2015)

On Thursday, February 20, Gayle McLaughlin, a member of the Green Party and the former Mayor of Richmond, CA, will be speaking in my Urban Policy course at 10 am in Johnson 203. I encourage students in the Democratic Socialism course to stick around and attend her talk. If you're so inclined, you can prepare for her talk by watching this video and reading the articles below, but you can attend the talk without any preparation:

Watch this 23-minute video, "Sharing Our Expectation: The Richmond Progressive Alliance" before class:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOHjzEIn2c0&feature=youtu.be>

Tucker and Colliver, "210 arrested at Chevron Refinery Protest" (SF Gate, August 4, 2013)

Early and Gordon, "The Progressive City on the Bay (And It's Not Berkeley or S.F.)" (In These Times, September 12, 2013)

"California's Political Revolution: An Interview with Gayle McLaughlin" (Jacobin, December 2018)

DePillis, "Richmond's rules: Why One California Town is Keeping Wall Street Up at Night" (Washington Post, October 5, 2013)

Lawson, "Restorative Justice offers Richmond High Students Alternatives to Suspension" (Richmond Confidential, December 13, 2014)



### **The History of American Socialism – 1 (Thursday, February 20)**

Nichols, The "S" Word: A Short History of an American Tradition: Socialism (pages xix – 99)

### **The History of American Socialism – 2 (Tuesday, February 25)**

Film: "Eugene Debs and the American Movement"

"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.

## The History of American Socialism – 3 (Thursday, April 27)

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

Nichols, The “S’ Word: A Short History of an American Tradition: Socialism (pages 101-173)

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

- Florence Kelley
- W.E.B. DuBois
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Alice Hamilton
- Lewis Hine
- Margaret Sanger
- Helen Keller
- Rose Schneiderman
- Roger Baldwin
- A.J. Muste
- Alice Stokes Paul

Dreier “Trump Touts Pledge of Allegiance with Socialist Roots” (American Prospect, September 7, 2016)

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)

## The History of American Socialism (Tuesday, March 3)

Film: “We Have a Plan”

Zinn, A People's History of the United States (Chapter 15, "Self Help in Hard Times")

Cohen, "Introduction" (from Nothing to Fear: FDR's Inner Circle and the Hundred)

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profile of:

- Franklin Roosevelt
- Upton Sinclair
- Norman Thomas

### **Radical Culture and Consciousness - 1 (Thursday, March 5)**

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

**Spring Break – March 9 - 13**

### **Radical Culture and Consciousness – 2 (Tuesday, March 17)**

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](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 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame. Read profiles of:

- Fiorello La Guardia
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Frances Perkins
- Sidney Hillman
- Floyd Olson
- A. Philip Randolph
- Harry Bridges
- Langston Hughes
- Myles Horton
- Walter Reuther
- Woody Guthrie

## Utopian Socialism (Thursday, March 19)

Reports from student reading groups:

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Herland
- Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia

## The Red Scare and the Cold War - 1 (Tuesday, March 24)

“Red Nightmare” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of\\_eApe5VIU](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 (Chapters 1-7, pages 1-102)

- 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”
- 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”

## The Red Scare and the Cold War - 2 (Thursday, March 26)

“McCarthy” (2 hours) or

“Hollywood on Trial” (105 minutes) or

“Paul Robeson: Here I Stand” (2 hours)

- 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](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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUwUp-D_VV0). Lyrics: <https://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/MALVINA/mr094.htm>

\*Margolick, “Strange Fruit” (Vanity Fair, September 1998)

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

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

### **Out of the Cold: The Civil Rights Movement and Beyond (Tuesday, March 31)**

Nichols, The “S” Word: A Short History of an American Tradition: Socialism (pages 175 -264)

Jones, “The Forgotten Radical History of the March on Washington” (Dissent, Spring 2013)

Dreier, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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)

**This is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 1 (Thursday, April 2)**

Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything

**This is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 2 (Tuesday, April 7)**

Partanen, The Nordic Theory of Everything

**This Is What Social Democracy Looks Like - 3 (Thursday April 9)**

- Watch this two-hour Michael Moore film, “Where to Invade Next,” on your own time before coming to class. It is available in the Oxy library. It is also available on-line for a free. 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)

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

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)

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)

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

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

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

### **What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? - 1 (Tuesday, April 14)**

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"
- Klein, "Democratic Socialism for a Climate-Changed Century"
- 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 16)**

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"

- Sugrue, “Livable Cities: Housing, Transportation, and Public Spaces for All”
- 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 a Democratic Socialist Society”
- Walzer, “Afterward: A Day in the Life of a Socialist Citizen”

Korten, “Eight Essential Steps to Transform Our Economy” (Open Democracy, July 23, 2019)

Dreier, “Less Rent, More Control” (Democratic Left, Winter 2019)

### **What Would Democratic Socialism in America Look Like? – 3 (Tuesday, April 21)**

Guest Speaker: Steve Tarzynski, M.D., former president, California Physicians Alliance

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

- Roberts, “What Does Health Equity Require? Racism and the Limits of Medicare for All”

### **America’s Democratic Socialist Movement Today – 1 (Thursday, April 23)**

- Optional but highly recommended: Watch this two-hour documentary about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes’ campaign for Congress, “Knock Down the House,” on your own time before coming to class. It is available in the Oxy library.

Speaker: Jack Suria Linares and Brandon Rey Ramirez, Los Angeles DSA

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

- Meyerson, “How Socialism Surged, and How It Can Go Further”

Democratic Socialists of America, “Resistance Rising: Socialist Strategy in the Age of Political Revolution” (June 25, 2016)

Duhalde, “It’s Party Time” (Dissent, Winter 2020)

Eichenwald, “The Myths Democrats Swallowed That Cost Them the Presidential Election” (Newsweek, November 14, 2016)

### **America’s Democratic Socialism Movement Today – 2 (Tuesday, April 28)**

Talbot, “Bernie Sanders: The Populist Prophet” (The New Yorker, October 12, 2015)

Dreier, “Progressive Victories Lay the Groundwork for 2020” (Public Seminar, November 21, 2018)

Leonhardt, “How ‘Centrist Bias’ Hurts Sanders and Warren” (NYT, December 22, 2019)

Kuttner, “The Times Brands Sanders and Warren as Far Left” (American Prospect, December 23, 2019)

Bouie, “The Enduring Power of Anticapitalism in American Politics: From Debs to Sanders to Ocasio-Cortez, an Ideal Persists” (NYT, October 22, 2019)

Fink, “Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren Represent Very Different Political Traditions” (In these Times, November 13, 2019)

Ember and Kaplan, “How Similar Are Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, Really?” (NYT, June 30, 2019)

### **America’s Democratic Socialist Movement Today – 3 (Thursday, April 30)**

Margolis, “Former Obama Campaign Manager Warns Democrat Voters About Bernie Sanders” (PJ Media, January 12, 2020)

Taylor, “Don’t Think Sanders Can Win? You Don’t Understand His Campaign” (NYT, December 10, 2019)

Lowry, “Bernie Is Not Normal” (National Review, January 14, 2020)

Edsall, "The Danger of Elizabeth Warren" (NYT, November 20, 2019)

Meyerson, "Elizabeth Warren Proposes a Second New Deal" (American Prospect, August 17, 2018)

Gerstein, "Elizabeth Warren's Plan for Corporate Boards Would Be a Boon to Businesses" (Slate, February 13, 2019)

Casselmann and Tankersley, "Warren Wealth Tax Has Wide Support, Except Among One Group" (NYT, November 29, 2019)

Geier, "What an Elizabeth Warren Presidency Would Look Like" (In These Times, January 7, 2020)

Denvir, "What a Bernie Sanders Presidency Would Look Like" (In These Times, January 7, 2020)

Waldman, "This Is the Most Important Question Democratic Presidential Candidates Must Answer" (Washington Post, August 9, 2019)