

Henry George School of Social Science

Purpose:

The teaching and study of the Social Sciences
with a view to developing mature students versed
in the history, scientific methodology and philosophy
of the Social Sciences.

O.B.Johannsen

I - History

a. American Social and Intellectual History

This course deals with American life from the early Colonial period up till modern times. It emphasizes the impact of religion, education, manners, morals and thought on America's development.

Text: Parrington's "Main Currents in American Life."

b. American Constitutional History

Purpose is to develop an understanding of the background and concepts which culminated in the development of the Constitution.

Text: Charles A. Beard's "Economic Interpretation of the Constitution."
The Federalist Papers
"The Constitution of the United States" by James Mussatti

c. History of Land and its Treatment

A study of the occupation, settlement and titles to land with particular reference to the United States.

Text: Carleton Beals - "American Earth"

d. History of Economic Thought

Survey of economic thought over the centuries.

Text: "Basic Teachings of the Great Economists" by John W. McConnell

e. History and its Problems

Deals with the problems of history, how the historian treats them, and his role in society.

Text: "Human Action" by Ludwig von Mises

II - Political Science

a. Fundamental Principles of Economics

Introductory course dealing with the factors in the production and distribution of wealth, emphasizing the rigorous definition of terms and the natural laws governing.

Text: Rusby: "Economics Simplified"
Henry George: "Progress and Poverty"
W.H. Mallock: "Property and Progress"

b. Social Problems and International Trade

Problems of government, public debts and of society are analyzed. In addition, a study is made of trade between nations, tariffs and their effects.

Text: "Social Problems" by Henry George
"Protection or Free Trade" by Henry George

c. The Science of Political Economy

A study is made of the fundamental principles underlying political economy. Analysis of a spontaneous economy versus a directed economy is made as well as a study of natural law, cooperation and competition.

Text: "The Science of Political Economy" by Henry George.

d. Land and Ethics

A study of rights to land and ethical principles involved including a discussion of human and property rights.

Text: "A Perplexed Philosopher" and "The Land Question" by Henry George.
"Social Statics" by Herbert Spencer.

III - Monetary Science

a. Money and Credit

A study of the development and use of money and credit. Particular emphasis is given to the determination of the natural relationships existing and to inculcating in the student an understanding of money and credit as a catalyst in the exchange of wealth and services.

Text: "The Theory of Money and Credit" by
Ludwig von Mises

b. Banking

A study of the growth of banking as a tool of man. Emphasis is given to the question of decentralized versus centralized banking. In addition, a study of the Federal Reserve System is made.

Text: "The Federal Reserve System - Purposes
and Functions"

IV - Government

a. The State and Government

Origin and basis of government and the state is studied. Functions of government are determined together with man's potentiality to govern.

Text: "The State" by Franz Oppenheimer
"Our Enemy the State" by Albert Jay Nock
"Politics" by Aristotle
"Two Treatises of Civil Government" by John Locke

b. The Totalitarian State

Study of the development of the Communist State. Fundamental principles underlying such a state.

Text: "Democracy vs Socialism" by Max Hirsch

V - Philosophy

a. Introduction to Philosophy

Purpose is to introduce the student to the nature and principal problems of philosophy with the view of awakening within him a desire to read the works of the great philosophers.

Text: Will Durant - "The Story of Philosophy"

b. Philosophy of Science

An analysis of the nature of scientific investigation and methodology with particular attention to assumptions and limitations as applied to social problems.

Text: "Human Action" by Ludwig von Mises
"Methods and Status of Scientific Research" by
Walter E. Spahr and Rinehart Jon Swenson

c. Philosophy of Religion

Concept of God in philosophy and religion. Affect on the individual. Includes reading of selections from theologians and philosophers.

d. Classics

Reading of selections from the Great Books of the masters of all ages. This is a discussion group which discusses the classics read. Utilizes material and outline of the Great Books Foundation.

VI - Speech and Writing

a. Speech Improvement

Purpose is to develop the student's skill in public speaking and discussion. An analysis is made of the student's speaking habits, and means of improvement suggested.

b. Composition

Course in writing English prose primarily to develop the student's ability to write lucidly. Includes a study of creative writers with a view to developing an appreciation of technique.

c. Semantics

Course in the study of words and the problems associated with the communication of ideas.

Text: Hayakawa: "Language in Thought and Action".

June 6, 1969

Cultural Discussion Groups

If the program to expand the curriculum via cultural discussion groups appears to be worth trying, the following is suggested as a plan of action.

1. Utilize the faculty as a nucleus. At a meeting, explain the program to them. If it meets with their approval, immediately assign to them the problem of preparing outlines for the various disciplines.

Ask for volunteers to lead specific programs. In that way, those faculty members interested in a discipline will be involved in it. A committee of two or three might be assigned to a specific program, but one of them must be charged with full responsibility to insure performance.

The committee assigned say to philosophy would recommend a textbook and prepare a syllabus. By placing the responsibility upon the members of committee and getting them immediately to work, it is hoped as they tackle the problem their enthusiasm for the program will increase. Certainly, the challenge of having to set up a program should be stimulating.

A target date would be set for presentation of the syllabi.

2. Each program would consist of ten meetings, two hours duration, unless there appears good reasons for shortening or lengthening the time.

3. Once the preliminary work by the various committees had been done, a meeting or series of meetings would be held to discuss the general ideas to be emphasized, the texts and the syllabi. After incorporating the changes and suggestions of the faculty, the final syllabi would be set up.

4. If agreeable to the faculty, "dry runs" might be attempted. One or two of the faculty would lead a group, with other members of the faculty interested in a particular program playing the part of the public. Two or three sessions might be devoted to these "dry runs". However, if the faculty members found it worth their while, possibly an entire program might be run through.

5. Once it was decided to attempt to sell the program to the public, the advertising begins.

(a) - A booklet, in mimeograph form, outlining the

program, the method of conducting the courses, and brief description of them might be produced.

(b) Articles in the Henry George News would explain the expanded program. Graduates would be urged to come back for these other courses. This might re-awaken their interest in the school and revive their active participation. Some might be induced to take refresher courses in the political science discipline. Faculty might be recruited from them for the Henry George courses and also for some of the newer courses.

(c) Outside publicity. Ads in the N.Y. Times and some outlying newspapers listing the courses and giving some idea of the purpose of these do-it-yourself education courses might be placed from time to time.

6. About ten years ago when I first became involved with the Grek Books program I suggested this adaptation for the school in New Jersey. It was probably premature, particularly since we had little money to develop it and practically no faculty. Attached are copies of memoranda and ads used then.

7. Also enclosed are some suggestions of mine for the following disciplines which might serve as a basis of discussion: History, Political Science, Monetary Science, Government, Philosophy, and Speech and Writing.

The above are merely a few suggestions on how to proceed if the expanded program seems worthwhile. Probably they should all be changed but at least they may be used as a beginning for consideration and discussion.

Oscar B. Johannsen

MEMO

To:

The Intellectually Curious

Subject:

Cultural Discussion Groups

You are invited to join a discussion group in the sphere of interest in which you want more knowledge.

Method:

No lectures. Give and take discussion, led by interested leaders. Learning this way is fun.

Educational
Requirements:

Ordinary intelligence, plus the desire and willingness to learn. No credit or degree given -- this is just for the purpose of gaining a deeper and clearer insight of the world about us.

Discussion
Groups:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>Philosophy</u>
Introduction
Philosophy of Science
Great Books | 4. <u>History</u>
American Social
Constitutional
History of Land |
| 2. <u>Economics</u>
Fundamental Principles
Social Problems and
International Trade
Science of Political Economy | 5. <u>Monetary Science</u>
Money and Credit
Banking |
| 3. <u>Government</u>
State & Government
The Totalitarian State | 6. <u>Speech & Writing</u>
Speech Improvement
Semantics
Writing Technique |

When:

Starts week beginning October 6th - ten weeks
one evening a week - eight to ten o'clock.

Cost:

\$5.00 per discussion group.

Where:

Henry George School, 78 Clinton Ave., Newark 2, N.J.

Action:

- (1) Fill out and return the portion below for details.
- (2) If you cannot join a group this year, please pass this memo to someone you believe might be interested.

Date _____

Henry George School:

I am interested in Discussion Group #____. Please send details.

(Please print plainly)

Name _____ Telephone _____

St. & No. _____ City _____ Zone _____

**A Cordial Invitation is Extended to You and Your Friends
To Participate in Any of the Following Discussion Groups**

PHILOSOPHY

Introduction; nature; Classics

HISTORY

American; Constitutional; Social

SPEECH & WRITING

Communication; Composition;
Semantics

PSYCHOLOGY

Analysis; Techniques;
Potentialities

MONETARY SCIENCE

Credit; Banking; Problems

GOVERNMENT

Principles; Functions; The State

ECONOMICS

Fundamentals; Applied; Science

There are no educational requirements. Any adult with the desire to learn is welcome. Come and attend the opening session of any group **WITHOUT CHARGE OR OBLIGATION** and determine for yourself if you wish to enroll. If you choose to continue with the group, the only charge is a nominal fee of \$5.00 for each group. Economics excepted for which there is no fee.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL of NEW JERSEY

78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 2, N. J.
at Washington Street

Market 3-9333

A non-profit educational institution founded 1935

Member: The New Jersey Association for Adult Education
Adult Educational Association of the U.S.A.

Opening Dates of Discussion Groups—All Sessions Start at 8 P.M.

Philosophy — Government on Wednesdays beginning January 28th

History — Monetary Science on Thursdays beginning January 29th

Speech & Writing — Psychology on Tuesdays beginning January 27th

Economics — on Mondays beginning January 26th

or Tuesdays beginning January 27th

or Fridays beginning January 30th

Select the day of the week most convenient for you.

Fill out and return the postage free Reservation card
below. A brochure will be sent with acknowledgement.
Come in, write or telephone for information if desired.

Please reserveplaces at the opening session of the Discussion Group
checked below. I understand there is no charge or obligation and that you
will send descriptive brochure by return mail.

☐ Philosophy
Wednesdays

☐ Psychology
Tuesdays

☐ History
Thursdays

☐ Government
Wednesdays

☐ Monetary Science
Thursdays

☐ Speech & Writing
Tuesdays

☐ Economics

☐ Mondays

☐ Tuesdays

☐ Fridays

Check the day of the week most convenient for you.

(Please Print Plainly)

Name.....Tel.....

Street and No.....

City.....Zone.....State.....