

CLOSING OF AMERICAN MIND

AUTHOR TO LECTURE AT USI



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Sherrienne Standley, University Relations
(812) 464-1902

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Dr. Allan Bloom, a native Hoosier and author of The Closing of the American Mind, a book that has sparked nationwide debate on the American educational system, will be featured in programs in late April at the University of Southern Indiana.

Dr. Bloom will lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21, on "The Liberal Arts in the Political Community." On Friday, April 22, he will lead discussions on "Friedrich Nietzsche" at 11 a.m. and "Rousseau's Educational Project" at 2:30 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public and will be held in Forum I unless attendance for the evening lecture dictates a move to a larger facility. A reception honoring Dr. Bloom will follow the evening lecture. Tickets are required for the lecture; call (812) 464-1755 for information. No tickets are required for the Friday discussions.

Dr. Bloom's visit is part of the USI Community of Scholars program designed to broaden the scope of education beyond the classroom for the student and to make special presentations available to the public. He is being sponsored by the USI Division of Humanities where a committee is handling arrangements. A series of University-wide discussions have been held on Dr. Bloom's book in preparation for his visit.

In addition, the Mid-America Conference on Composition for Tri-State teachers of English and composition is being held this year in conjunction with Dr. Bloom's visit. The conference will be held on Friday, April 22, with symposia scheduled at 9 a.m. in UC 309A and at 12 noon in Forum III on Dr. Bloom's book and Cultural Literacy by Ed Hirsch, Jr.

Dr. Bloom is a native of Indianapolis who has been professor of the Committee on Social Thought and the College at University of Chicago since 1979 and co-director of John M. Olin Center for Inquiry into the Theory and Practice of Democracy since 1983. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from

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Southern Indiana**

8600 University Boulevard · Evansville, Indiana 47712

University of Chicago and also attended the University of Paris, where he was a University of Chicago Paris Exchange Fellow (1953-54) and has been a lecturer and visiting professor. He was professor of the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, for the nine years prior to rejoining the faculty at Chicago. He also has taught at Yale and Cornell universities and was a visiting professor at the University of Tel Aviv in 1969.

Dr. Bloom has been an adjunct scholar with the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research since 1981 and has been a member of the editorial boards of *Ancient Philosophy*, *Political Theory*, and *Commentaire*. Among numerous awards was the 1987 presentation of Prix Jean-Jacques Rousseau by the City of Geneva.

The Closing of the American Mind: How Higher Education has Failed Democracy and Impoverished the Souls of Today's Students was published by Simon and Schuster in 1987 and was translated for publication by Editions Julliard in Paris that same year. His numerous books and articles have dealt with the work of William Shakespeare, Plato, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, and Raymond Aron, among others.