

## COLUMBIA REVISION

*Times 9-30-62*  
Columbia College's course in Contemporary Civilization, which has set a pattern for general education courses at institutions throughout the country since its inception in 1919, has undergone another significant revision. The course relies heavily on carefully selected source readings with a framework provided by a two-volume compilation entitled "Chapters in Western Civilization." The historical chapters in these volumes were formerly taken from available textbooks, but in a newly-published version of Volume II, the chapters were commissioned and specifically written for the Contemporary Civilization courses by leading scholars in this country and Europe.

Commenting on this departure, Robert K. Webb, chairman of the Contemporary Civilization Program, said: "These essays are designed not only to give background for the source readings, but to indicate the problems and solutions that are occupying scholars at work on the frontiers of knowledge. Just as the adoption of source readings in 1941 reflected a new confidence in the intellectual capacities and self-reliance of college freshmen, so the new set of essays presupposes a still higher degree of sophistication in today's freshmen."

The one-year interdepartmental course dealing with Western thought and history from the Middle Ages through the end of the Nineteenth Century is required of all students at Columbia College. There was considerable comment last year when the second-year course dealing with contemporary is-

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sues was made optional rather than required. This was done because it was difficult to get faculty agreement on a single course adequate to treat the complex problems of modern society.