

Economics 1740 Section 1: US Economic History
Spring 2013 W 6:00 – 9:00 PM
(3 Credits, Fulfills American Institutions (AI) Requirement)

Instructor: Zain Siddiqui

Email: Via Canvas

Office: Department of Economics (3rd floor of OSH) – Cubicle #3

Office Hours: W 5:00-5:45 PM; other times by appointment

The course explores the economic and social history of the United States from the colonial period to the present day. While the course is broad in scope, we will pay special attention to particular topics. These topics include changes in US labor markets, changes in living standards, the growth of income inequality in the US, and if time permits, the evolution of the banking sector and the US macroeconomy.

The course will rely both on lectures and class discussions. The class setup would roughly be to begin each class with a lecture and close with a class discussion to memorialize the assigned readings. Student participation is strongly encouraged and required to earn full participation points.

Course objectives:

By the end of the semester, a student who is successful in this course gain understanding of:

1. The sources of economic growth in the US, including natural resource endowments, innovation and technological change, institutional change, and intra- and international trade (including innovations in communication and transportation),
2. The effects of economic growth for the US population as a whole,
3. The evolution of US government policy as it relates to the economy,
4. The application of historical insights to contemporary policy debates.

Texts and Other Materials:

There is one required text that you should purchase:

- Walton and Rockoff, History of the American Economy, 11th Edition. OH: Cengage, 2009.
- America: The Story of Us. (This is a video series we will be watching in class)

Note that I will post copies of graphs, lecture outlines, and class announcements online on the course Canvas site. Even if you make use of these outlines, it will still be necessary for you to

come to class to take good notes and participate in class discussions to earn full participation points. **We will be having roll call each class to ensure class participation.**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and with me to make arrangements for accommodations.

Requirements and Grading:

1. Exams

There will be three non-cumulative exams. All exams will consist of a mix multiple choice and short answers. In very rare cases of extreme, unavoidable, and documented scheduling conflicts, individual students may arrange to take exams early, and these arrangements must be made well in advance of the scheduled exam time. Late exams may be given in cases of documented medical or other emergency. Otherwise, failure to take an exam at the scheduled time will result in a 0 for the exam.

2. Reaction Papers

Each week we will watch a short video in class. You are required to submit a one and a half page double-spaced reaction paper to these videos at the beginning of the next class. Each reaction is worth 10 points: 8 points is for content and 2 points for format. Refer to “Reaction paper structure and grading rubric” available on Canvas for more information.

3. Issue Paper

Each student will choose some narrow topic in US economic history for study and will write a paper of 5 to 6 pages on that topic. The resulting paper should (1) pose an interesting question and motivate the importance of that question, (2) review and evaluate the relevant literature. There are several steps in the completion of the research project:

- On Feb 15th, each student should turn in a page identifying their general area of interest, proposing some potential narrow topics, and listing some of the relevant literature (at least four potential sources other than items listed on the syllabus).
- The final papers will be due on the last day of class April 24th, during class, and we will discuss them on that day.

4. Extra-credit

You are responsible for reading all of the assigned readings. I may occasionally have a 5 point extra-credit pop-quiz in class based on assigned text-book readings for the date. This is an easy way to earn some extra-credit.

Some general writing rules apply to the assignment. First, the papers should be typed, double-spaced, using standard font sizes and margins. Second, your grade will be based in part on whether or not you expressed yourself clearly. Spelling, grammar, and organization matter. **Third, if you use material from any source, you must clearly indicate your source, and if you directly quote any material, you must clearly indicate what has been quoted (along with indicating your source).** The paper will be run through anti-plagiarism software *Viper*. If you quote material without clearly indicating so, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you have any questions about this, please discuss them with me. Finally, you may **not** turn papers in late. If you know that you are going to miss class on the day an assignment is due, please make some arrangement for getting the work to me before class.

Weighting of Assignments & Exams:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Reaction Essays	10%
Issue Paper	20%
Participation	10%

Grade Scale

A	92+
A-	90 - 91
B+	88 - 89
B	82 - 87
B-	80 - 81
C+	75 - 79
C	70 - 74
C-	65 - 69
D+	63 - 64
D	57 - 62
D-	55 - 56
E	< 55

Class Outline

Note that the precise schedule of topics may change slightly, but exam dates and assignment due dates are very unlikely to change. Any change in exam dates or due dates will be announced well ahead of time. Also note that the W+R readings refer to the Walton and Rockoff text and are listed by their chapter number in the 11th edition of the book.

Jan 9th Intro

Jan 16th Ch. 2 - 4 Colonial Era

Jan 23 th	Ch. 6 - 7	The Birth of a Nation
Jan 30 th	Ch. 8 – 9	Westward Movement
Feb 8 th	Exam 1	
Feb 15 th	Ch. 10 - 11	Emergence of the Factory System
Feb 20 th	Ch. 13 – 14	Civil War and Westward Migration <i>Issue Paper Proposal Due</i>
Feb 27 th	Ch. 15 – 16	Agriculture and Railroads
March 6 th	Ch. 17 - 18	Industrialization
March 20 th	Ch. 20 - 22	Economic Boom
March 27 th	Exam 2	
April 3 th	Ch. 23	Great Depression
April 10 th	Ch. 24 – 25	New Deal and WWII
April 17 th	Ch. 26 – 27	Postwar
April 24 th	Exam 3	<i>Issue Paper Due</i>

Special Note: This syllabus is intended to provide general information about the class and is subject to change. Adjustments or changes will be posted as announcements on course's Canvas site.