

US Economic History

3 Credits, Fulfills American Institutions (AI) Requirement

Chari Farr

E-Mail: charifarr5915@gmail.com

Phone: 509-435-5785 (text is preferred)

Econ 1740-090

Meets: online

Office Hours: online (or by appointment)

Course description:

This course examines 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 direct special attention to particular topics. These topics include changes in US labor markets, changes in living standards (and their measurement), and the history of female and minority labor.

Course objectives:

By the end of the semester, a student who is successful in this course will be able to

1. Identify 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. Examine the effects of economic growth for the US population as a whole and for sub-populations, including the evolution of living standards, changes in the nature of work, and the increasing role of markets in people's lives,
3. Explain the importance of economic concepts and variables, including gross domestic product, income, wealth, unemployment, and inflation,
4. Discuss the evolution of US government policy as it relates to the economy, including the growth of the public sector over time, the regulation of the labor market (including the operation and abolition of slavery and the regulation of immigration), and the use of fiscal and monetary policy to mitigate the harmful effects of economic downturns, and
5. Apply historical insights to contemporary policy debates.

Texts and Other Materials:

- Walton and Rockoff, History of the American Economy, 12th EDITION. OH: Cengage, 2014.
- America: The Story of Us. (Video provided weekly in the reaction paper assignments online in Canvas)

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Policy

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services.

Additionally, the University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135

Salt Lake City, UT, 84112

801-581-8365 (voice/tdd)

801-585-5746 (fax)

www.oeo.utah.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA) and Sections 504 and 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 (Sections 503 & 504)

University policy, the ADA, and Sections 504 & 503, prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's status as a person with a disability, require equal opportunity and access, a process for a person with a disability to request a reasonable accommodation, and a grievance process for an individual to complain of discrimination. The University endeavors to ensure that its campus and programs are accessible and in compliance with state and federal disability standards and to provide reasonable accommodations so as to remove a barrier that may prevent an individual with a disability from equally participating in academics, employment, or other University program. Reasonable accommodations may include specialized equipment, auxiliary aids, policy modifications, academic adjustments or other accommodation that is effective. University policy, as well as state and federal law, strictly prohibit retaliation against an individual for requesting a disability accommodation, for participating in a disability discrimination complaint process.

Academic Dishonesty

"All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee."

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this course. All instances of plagiarism and cheating will be reported to the university. The first instance will receive a grade of zero for that assignment, exam, etc. The second will result in a failing grade in the class and potential disciplinary action by the university.

Requirements and Grading:

WEEKLY QUIZZES (approx. 130 points **this may change**)

Each week you will take a short (10 question, 10 point) quiz based on the material in the lectures and textbook. The quiz will be timed (12 minutes for each quiz). **The quizzes are closed book/note/internet and you are expected to work alone.**

REACTION PAPERS (100 points + 10 possible extra credit points)

Each week you will watch a video online (approx. 45 min). You are required to submit a (minimum) one-page reaction paper to these videos. Each reaction is worth 10 points: 5 points is for content and 5 points for format (to be explained later). The reactions must be submitted to Canvas no later than midnight on the Sunday of that week.

Content: You will be provided with prompts (up until the first exam), to help you to think about the material as you watch the video. These prompts will be your guide for what to write. You are expected to put thought in your answers and respond intelligibly. You are encouraged to support your answers with

material from the video, lecture, and textbook, as well as outside sources. **You must clearly indicate your source, and if you directly quote any material, you must clearly indicate what has been quoted along with indicating the source of the quoted material.** If you quote material without clearly indicating so, you will receive a 0 for the assignment and a warning. If it happens a second time, additional action will be taken in accordance with the college. (See: Academic integrity Policy, <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>)

Format: Although these reactions are only one page, you are expected to submit well-written papers. These will be graded not only on the thoughts submitted, but also on grammar and cohesiveness.

****Formatting expectations:** double spaced, 12 pt standard font (Times New Roman or Arial), 1" margins, no 1st or 2nd person in your writing, nothing but your name at the top. A rubric is provided for you to follow!

***Note:** Late papers may be accepted, at a penalty. The penalty is as follows: 2 less total possible points for each day, (i.e. 1 day late = 8 points possible, 2 days = 6 points possible, etc.)

EXAMS (300 points)

There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. Each exam is worth 100 points.

The midterms have the same structure: the exam will open Monday and remain open until Sunday during exam week. Exams 1 & 2 will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short essay questions. On these, you are expected to work alone, and they are timed. **Exam 1 will take place during Week 5. Exam 2 will be during Week 11.**

**** You are expected to work alone, without the use of any materials (including the internet) on both Exam 1 and Exam 2.** Any instances of cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the entire exam (both the multiple choice and essay question portions).

The final exam will be available the Wednesday before finals week. The final is not cumulative and will be all short essay questions. You may discuss these questions with other students, however you must all write and submit your own answers. This is not timed, it just must be uploaded no later than the due date.

***All exams must be taken during the week they are assigned.** You will want to plan your time accordingly so you are able to complete the exam by the due date. Exams may not be taken before the week they are assigned either. 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.

PARTICIPATION (approx. 150 points)

Each week you will participate in an online discussion with a small group of students (around 9-11 people per group). First you will submit a post about a topic that you found most interesting for the week (suggestions for discussions are given in the lectures). A full-point post will contain substance and thought about a topic, bringing a new perspective than what was presented in the material. You may receive **up to 4 points for the post**. Your post must be submitted no later than 11:59pm, Thursday each week to receive full points. (Each day late will be deducted 1 point from the total points earned.) A rubric is provided for clarity on expectations.

You will then respond to at least two posts that other students have posted. You will receive **up to 3 points for each response** (graded based on quality of response). You may respond to as many as you want, and extended discussions are highly encouraged, but you are required to respond to two. Responses are due by 11:59pm, Sunday each week. A rubric is provided for clarity on expectations.

RESEARCH PAPER (200 points)

You will write a paper relevant to the history of the US Economy. There is a list of topics provided that you can choose from, but you may also select a topic not from the list. (You need approval of topics not on the list before you begin.) Paper guidelines will be provided the third week of class, and you will choose your topics by then end of the third week. I will post the topics list on Canvas for you to look over in advance. Due dates are listed in the project guidelines that will be provided, as well as in the schedule below and I will remind you along the way as well.

EXTRA CREDIT

After each exam, you will have the opportunity to watch a video and write a reaction paper for up to 10 points extra credit.

In addition, you are only required to submit 10 of the 11 assigned reaction papers. You have the option to do all 11 reaction papers, for an additional 10 points extra credit.

There will be no other extra credit offered.

Grading of assignments:

Grade Scale

Exams (100 points each)	300 points	A: 92+	C: 70 – 74.9
Participation (approx.)	300 points	A-: 90 - 91.9	C-: 65 – 69.9
Reading quizzes (approx.)	130 points	B+: 88 - 89.9	D+: 63 – 64.9
Reaction papers	100 points	B: 82 - 87.9	D: 57 – 62.9
Research paper	100 points	B-: 80 - 81.9	D-: 55 – 56.9
-----		C+: 75 - 79.9	E: < 55
Total	(approx.) 930 points		

Note that I do not round grades, and I do not curve.

Other things to keep in mind:

- 1) While this class is online, you are expected to stay on top of all material. The material is only available for the week that it is covered. I will be available almost any time of day or night to answer questions. While this is an online class, email (and not the Canvas messages) is the best way to get a hold of me. I am also perfectly happy to received texts – this is the fastest way to find me!
- 2) Canvas will be utilized for submitting all of the assignments as well as for posting grades. You may not email me any assignments, unless I say otherwise. You are responsible for monitoring your grades on Canvas that are posted throughout the semester and making me aware of any discrepancies or concerns on or before the last day of class. No changes will be made after Friday, May 5th, to any grades on assignments, exams, etc., posted to or recorded on Canvas prior to that date.

- 3) Make-up assignments will be given at the discretion of the instructor, only for very serious medical reasons, and **only if cleared in advance**.
- 4) You are expected to post and respond to discussions each week. While you are not required to attend an actual classroom, you must plan to spend time in the “virtual classroom” (i.e. Canvas) on a regular basis. I will be posting announcements, assignments, and grades all online, and you are responsible for staying on top of the information I post.
- 5) Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Any indication of cheating will be handled in accordance with the university’s academic integrity policy.

Date	Topics	Readings; Project due dates
Section 1	Chapters 1 – 14	
Week 1 Jan 9 th – 15 th	Introductions; Overview; Growth, Welfare and the American Economy	Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 16 th – 22 nd	Founding the Colonies; Colonial Economic Activities; Economic Relations of the Colonies; Economic Progress and Wealth	Chapter 2 - 5
Week 3 Jan 23 rd – 29 th	Three Crises and Revolt; Hard Realities for a New Nation	Chapter 6 & 7 **Topic choice due
Week 4 Jan 30 th – Feb 5 th	Land and Early Westward Movements; Transportation and Market Growth; Market Expansion and Industry in First Transition; Labor during the Early Industrial Period; Money and Banking in the Developing Economy	Chapters 8-12
Week 5 Feb 6 rd – 12 th	The Entrenchment of Slavery and Regional Conflict; War, Recovery and Regional Divergence	Chapters 13 & 14
Week 6 Feb 13 th – 19 th	**EXAM 1**	(Covers Chapters 2 – 14)
Section 2	Chapters 15 – 24	
Week 7 Feb 20 th – 26 th	Agriculture's Western Advance; Railroads and Economic Change	Chapters 15 & 16 **Proposal due
Week 8 Feb 27 th – Mar 5 th	Industrial Expansion and Concentration; The Emergence of America's Labor Consciousness	Chapters 17 & 18
Week 9 Mar 6 th – 12 th	Money, Prices, and Finance in the Postbellum Era; Commerce at Home and Abroad; The Roaring Twenties	Chapters 19, 20 & 22
Mar 13 th – 19 th	Spring Break	
Week 10 Mar 20 th – 26 th	The Great Depression; The New Deal	Chapters 23 & 24 **Annotated Bibliography due
Week 11 Mar 27 th – Apr 2 nd	**EXAM 2**	(Covers Chapters 15 – 24)
Section 3	Chapters 25 – 30	
Week 12 Apr 3 rd – 9 th	World War II	Chapter 25 **Outline due
Week 13 Apr 10 th – 16 th	The Changing Role of Government: Federal Spending in Peace and War; The Changing Role of Government: Consumer Safety, Agriculture, the Environment and Housing	Chapters 26 & 27

Week 14 Apr 17 th – 23 rd	Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Business Cycles after World War II; Manufacturing, Productivity and Labor; Achievements of the Past, Challenges for the Future	Chapters 28, 29 & 30
Week 15 Apr 17 th – 23 rd		**Paper and Presentation due
Final Week Apr 26 th – May 5 th	**FINAL EXAM**	**Peer Review due