

Economics 1740: US Economic History
Spring 2012 W 6-9 PM BEH S 115
(3 Credits, Fulfills American Institutions (AI) Requirement)

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Office Hours: 4pm Wednesday Afternoons

This course explores the economic transformation of the United States from the colonial period to the present time. We will specifically focus on two aspects of the economic transformation of America: the material underpinnings of the transformation and the effect of the transformation on the every day life of Americans. Our discussion will include, among other things, the role of technology, institutions and demographic movements.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, a student who is successful in this course will have gained an 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 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. 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
4. The application of historical insights to contemporary policy debates.

Required Texts:

Students are required to have access to the following book:

Heilbroner, R. , & Singer, A. *The economic transformation of America: 1600 to the present,4th Edition.*
Orlando: Harcourt College Pub. ISBN: 0155055305

Students may also use the fourth edition of the book which is available at the University Bookstore on campus.

The majority of in class discussion and lecture will be based on readings from *The economic transformation of America*. Thus, it is highly encouraged that students buy their own copy of the book

Supplementary text will also be made available via WebCT throughout the semester.

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 the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

Teaching and Learning Methods:

The course will be structured partly as a traditional lecture style class with a large segment of group work. However, student participation and engagement is highly encouraged at all times and alternative formats may be utilized throughout the semester.

Requirements and Grading:

1. Exams

There will be one midterm and one final exam. Exam dates and format will be announced at least two weeks prior to the exam. Announcements will be made in-class and via WebCT. All exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. 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. In-Class Quizzes.

Two in-class quizzes will be given throughout the semester, each worth 15% of your grade. Quiz dates and format will be announced at least two weeks prior to the quiz. Announcements will be made in-class and via WebCT.

Weighting of Assignments

Midterm – 30%
First Quiz – 15%
Second Quiz – 15%
Final Exam – 40%

Grade Scale

A: 92+
A-: 90 - 91.999
B+: 88 - 89.999
B: 82 - 87.9999
B-: 80 - 81.9999
C+: 75 - 79.9999
C: 70 – 74.9999
C-: 65 – 69.9999
D+: 63 – 64.9999
D: 57 – 62.9999
D-: 55 – 56.9999

Note that one extra credit opportunity may be made available during the semester. The format, value and date of this extra credit opportunity, if I decide to make it available, will be discussed in class.

Expectations:

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, 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.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

Week 1 (Jan 11): Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2 (Jan 18): Chapter 2 and Chapter 3

Week 3(Jan 25): Quiz 1

Week 4(Feb 1): Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Week 5(Feb 8): Chapter 6

Week 6(Feb 15): Review Day

Week 7(Feb 22): Midterm

Week 8(Feb 29): Post-midterm Review and Chapter 7

Week 9(March 7): Chapter 8 and Chapter 9

Spring Break: No class on March 14

Week 10 (March 21): Chapter 10 and Chapter 11

Week 11(March 28): Quiz 2

Week 12(April 4): Chapter 12

Week 13(April 11): Chapter 13

Week 14(April 18th): Chapter 14

Week 15(April 25): Final Review/Last Day of Class

Final Exam: According to University of Utah Final Exam Schedule <http://registrar.utah.edu/academic-calendars/final-exams-spring2012.php>

Final Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructors discretion. All changes will be announced in class ahead of time.