**US Economic History**

3 Credits, Fulfills American Institutions (AI) Requirement

**Chari Evans Econ 1740-090**

**E-Mail:** [chari.j.evans@utah.edu](mailto:chari.j.evans@utah.edu) **Meets:** online

**Phone**: 509-435-5785(text is preferred) **Office Hours:** online (or by appointment)

**Office:** OSH 380

**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 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 measurement of important economic concepts and variables, including gross domestic product, income, wealth, unemployment, and inflation,
4. 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. The application of historical insights to contemporary policy debates.

**Texts and Other Materials:**

* Walton and Rockoff, History of the American Economy, 11th EDITION. OH: Cengage, 2010
* Various articles (I will post these on Canvas)
* America: The Story of Us. (This is a video series we will be watching)

Each week we will be covering chapters from the textbook. You are expected to read the chapters we will cover, and you will take a short reading quiz on each chapter. I will post recordings for the chapter lectures online, and you will watch these AFTER you have completed the reading quizzes for the week. You will then watch a video that is related to the material covered in the text/lectures. At the end of each week, you will write a one-page reaction paper to the material we’ve covered that week.

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:**

**READING QUIZZES** (approx. 130 points \*\*this may change\*\*)

You are responsible for reading all of the assigned readings. A schedule of the readings is listed on the last page of the syllabus, but I will also post them online. I may occasionally post additional readings that are not required, but unless otherwise stated, all readings posted on Canvas are required.

Each week you will read the required chapters, and then take a short (10 question, 5 point) reading quiz for each chapter. The quiz will be timed (12 minutes for each quiz) and you can take the quizzes for the week in any order you like, however I recommend you read a chapter then take the quiz for it, before moving on to the next chapter. This way will probably get you the best scores, depending on your learning style and ability to retain information you read.

Once you have completed the reading quiz for a chapter, you will be able to watch the lecture for that chapter. You may not watch the lectures first.

**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 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 typed, double spaced, 12 pt standard font (Times New Roman or Arial), 1” margins and submitted to Canvas no later than midnight on the Sunday of that week.

**Content:** You will be provided with prompts, beforehand, to allow you to think about the response 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, as well as the required readings. **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.**  (We will discuss citations in more detail later). 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, I will pursue action 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.

\*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. **The first midterm exam will be available from Monday, February 11th – Sunday, February 17th.**  **The second midterm will be available from Monday, March 25th – Sunday March 31st. The final exam will be available from Wednesday April 24th – Friday May 3rd.**  Each exam is worth 100 points. The two midterm exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short essay questions. On these, you are expected to work alone, and they are timed. The final is not cumulative and will be all short essay questions. You may discuss these questions with other students, however you must all submit your own answers. This is not timed.

\*Exams may not be taken after the deadline. You will want to plan your time accordingly.

\*\*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. 300 points)

I expect you to participate in weekly discussions online. Each week you will post two topics online that you found most interesting for the week. You will receive **5 points per post**.

You are also required to respond to at least two posts that other students have posted. You will receive **5 points for each response**. You may respond to as many as you want, and I highly encourage discussions of this sort, but you are required to respond to two.

**RESEARCH PAPER** (100 points)

You will write a paper relevant to the history of the US Economy. I have a list of topics that you can choose from. If there is something you would like to do that is not on the list, I have to approve the topic before you proceed. Paper guidelines will be provided the second week of class, and you will choose your topics by then end of the second week. I will post the topics list on Canvas for you to look over in advance. Papers will be submitted to Canvas and are **due no later than Sunday, April 28th**.

**EXTRA CREDIT**

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

In addition, you are 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 3rd, 2013, 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. Do not think that because this is an online class, it will be any less work. I am not expecting anything additional from when I teach this class on campus, but the workload is also not any less.

**Schedule:**

While it is possible the schedule could change, it is unlikely. The chapters listed are the chapters we will cover that week, and it is encouraged to read the chapters early in the week. Additional information will be provided on Canvas.

**Section 1**

Monday Jan 7th – Sunday Jan 13th Introductions/Explanations/Discussion

Monday Jan 14th – Sunday Jan 20th Chapters 2 – 5 “Rebels”

**\*\*Topics due\*\***

Monday Jan 21st – Sunday Jan 27th Chapters 6 & 7 “Revolution”

Monday Jan 28th – Sunday Feb 3rd Chapters 8 – 12 “Westward”

Monday Feb 4th – Sunday Feb 10th Chapters 13 & 14 “Division”

Monday Feb 11th – Sunday Feb 17th **Exam 1** (EC1: “Civil War”)

**Section 2**

Monday Feb 18th – Sunday Feb 24th Chapters 15 & 16 “Heartland”

Monday Feb 25th – Sunday Mar 3rd Chapters 17 & 18 “Cities”

Monday Mar 4th – Sunday Mar 10th Chapters 19, 20 & 22 “Boom”

Monday Mar 11th – Sunday Mar 17th **Spring Break**

Monday Mar 18th – Sunday Mar 24th Chapters 23 & 24 “Bust”

Monday Mar 25th – Sunday Mar 31st **Exam 2** (EC2: Fed 911)

\*This video is not from the series

**Section 3**

Monday Apr 1st – Sunday Apr 7th Chapter 25 “WWII”

Monday Apr 8th – Sunday Apr 14th Chapters 26 & 27 “Superpower”

Monday Apr 15th – Sunday Apr 21st Chapters 28 & 29 Survey

\*This is not a video. I will post a survey

on Canvas for you to fill out.

Monday Apr 22nd – Sunday Apr 28th Papers due

**Wednesday Apr 24th – Friday May 2nd Final Exam** (EC3: “Millennium)

**\*\*Note I have the final available before the start of finals week! This way you have time to get it done before you study for your other finals, if you choose. Or you have time to wait and finish it after, since it’s not due till that Friday (by midnight).**