



### **Syllabus**

#### **Economics 1740 Section 070: US Economic History**

Spring 2014: Tues 6:00-9:00 pm, Sandy Campus, Room 118

3 Credits, Fulfills American Institutions (AI) Credit

**Instructor:** Jacki Strenio

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**Office:** Economics Department (OSH 3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Cubicle #8

**Office Hours:** Before and after class by appointment

#### **Course overview:**

“How can we know who we are and where we are going if we don't know anything about where we have come from and what we have been through, the courage shown, the costs paid, to be where we are?”

— David McCullough (1991) *Brave Companions: Portraits in History*

This course examines the past four centuries of US history focusing specifically on the country's economic transformation from the colonial period to the present. As McCullough expresses, we are able to more clearly see the present and prepare for the future by learning from our past experiences. This is especially relevant after the recent Great Recession of 2007-8. This course aims to illuminate and reflect on this unique and epic economic history of the United States.

#### **Course outcomes:**

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

- will gain a more detailed knowledge of US history, particularly in terms of developments in living standards, demography (population growth, immigration, and migration), technological change, and government economic policy,
- will acquire new insight into the measurement of important economic concepts and variables and specifically their application to history
- will have a sense of the ways in which history allows us to better understand the present via discussion of current events

#### **Texts and other materials:**

- Walton and Rockoff, *History of the American Economy*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. OH: Cengage, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0324786620

- Required, but a copy is also available through Course Reserves at the Marriot Library. More information on using Course Reserves is available on Canvas and the library website.
- Note: You will *not* need the access card.
- Various articles and book excerpts (posted in Canvas under “Files” → “Readings”)
- America: The Story of US, 2010. (A History Channel miniseries)

We will discuss a lot material that is not covered in the readings. I will upload all lecture slides to Canvas, however, it will still be necessary for you to come to class and take good notes in order to do well in this class.

### Assignments and grading:

- I. Quizzes: 15%
- II. Reaction Papers: 15%
- III. Exams: two midterms and a final, each worth 20%, for a total of 60%
- IV. Participation: 10%

**I. Quizzes (5 quizzes – 1 dropped = 4 graded quizzes x 3.75% each = 15%)**

Multiple-choice, online quizzes administered every other week. They are based on the assigned readings from Walton and Rockoff as well as various assigned articles from the prior two weeks. Quizzes will be administered via Canvas and are due *before* class on the date listed in the Course Schedule. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

**II. Reaction Papers (5 reactions x 3% each = 15%)**

Reaction papers to in-class discussions and videos are due every other week, on alternate weeks from quizzes, to be submitted via Canvas *before* class. I will provide prompts for papers the week before they are due, but more than simply regurgitating facts, I would like you to use the reaction papers as a platform to analyze what you think about the topics we are discussing in class and perhaps even how they relate to current events or your own life. Reaction papers are graded on the following criteria. Please be aware that I will be using TurnItIn software so make sure you appropriately cite all sources and quotes.

**Content:** Well-thought out and well written. Addresses the provided prompt.  
Appropriately cites sources.

**Format:** 1-page, double-spaced, 1” margins. Please use 12 pt Times New Roman, Cambria or Arial font.

**Due:** submit *via Canvas* before class on the days listed on the Course Schedule

**III. Exams (3 exams x 20% each = 60%)**

There will be three equally weighted exams in this class: two midterms, **February 11 and March 25**, and a final on **April 29** in our normal classroom. Exams will be a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Exams are not cumulative.

#### IV. Participation (10%)

Your participation grade is calculated via in-class assignments, graded Canvas discussions, and group work assigned periodically throughout the semester. *You cannot make up participation points so you must be present to be awarded them.* Because “stuff” comes up in life that might mean missing class, I will drop your lowest participation grade, (i.e. a 0 if you had to miss class one night).

#### Extra credit:

Various opportunities will be announced in class and on Canvas

#### Grade scale:

A: 92+	C: 70 – 74.9
A-: 90 - 91.9	C-: 65 – 69.9
B+: 88 - 89.9	D+: 63 – 64.9
B: 82 - 87.9	D: 57 – 62.9
B-: 80 - 81.9	D-: 55 – 56.9
C+: 75 - 79.9	E: < 55

#### Course policies:

- Students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting. This means refraining from using cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devices and only using a laptop to take notes.
- Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor, only for very serious, verifiable medical reasons, and only if cleared in advance.
- I expect that you will attend class, arrive on time, and contribute to class discussions.
- Canvas will be heavily utilized in this class for submitting written assignments, taking quizzes, and posting grades. Also, all lecture slides, supplemental readings, and assignments can be found on Canvas under “Files.” All assignments, lectures, and readings will also be organized by week under “Modules.” You are responsible for monitoring your grades on Canvas as they are posted throughout the semester and alerting me to any discrepancies *on or before the last day of class*. I would recommend checking Canvas frequently to stay up to date on assignments and due dates.
- You are required to take all reading quizzes online via Canvas; however, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If you choose not to take any of the quizzes, you will receive a zero on that quiz (unless arrangements are made before a quiz is missed).

#### University policies:

- *Academic (Dis)Honesty*. Academic dishonesty of any kind is a serious offense, which undermines both the reputation and quality of the degrees issued by the University of Utah. Plagiarism of any kind, intentional and/or unintentional, will result in strict

sanctions against the student per university policy. Please meet with me immediately if you are unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism.

- *The University Code: Section V. A.* Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to, refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating.
- *Section V. B.* A student who engages in academic misconduct ... may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**

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 written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Important dates:**

Events	Dates
Classes begin	Monday, January 6
Last day to add without a permission code	Sunday, January 12
Last day to drop (delete) classes	Wed., January 15
Last day to add, elect CR/NC, or audit classes	Tuesday, January 21
Last day to withdraw from classes	Friday, February 28
Spring break	Sun – Sun, March 9-16
Last day to reverse CR/NC option	Friday, April 18
Classes end	Wednesday, April 23

## Course Schedule: Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week	Class	Topic	Readings/Assignment
1	1/7	Economic History? Pre-Industrial Europe	Gordon (2004) "Introduction" Heilbroner (1994) "Ch 2"
2	1/14	Early Attempts at Colonization Colonial America	W&R: Ch 2-4 <b>*Quiz 1 Due*</b>
3	1/21	War for Independence and the New Nation	W&R: Ch 6-7 <b>*Reaction Paper 1*</b>
4	1/28	Antebellum Economic Growth	W&R: Ch 10-11 <b>*Quiz 2 Due*</b>
5	2/4	Slavery, Civil War	W&R: Ch 13-14 <b>*Reaction Paper 2*</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>2/11</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b>	
7	2/18	Railroads and the West	W&R: Ch 15-16
8	2/25	Industrial Expansion	W&R: Ch 17-19 <b>*Quiz 3 Due*</b>
9	3/4	The Roaring Twenties	W&R: Ch 20,22 <b>*Reaction Paper 3*</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>3/11</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
11	3/18	The Great Depression and the New Deal	W&R: Ch 23-24 Steinbeck <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> Ch. 25 <b>*Quiz 4 Due*</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>3/25</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b>	
13	4/1	WWII and the War Economy The Changing Role of the Federal Government	W&R: Ch 25-27
14	4/8	“The Golden Age” “The Great Inflation”	W&R: Ch 28 <b>*Reaction Paper 4*</b>
15	4/15	The Conservative Era and the Modern Economy	W&R: Ch 28-29 <b>*Quiz 5 Due*</b>
16	4/22	The Great Recession and Class Review	<b>*Reaction Paper 5*</b>
<b>**Final Exam is Tuesday April 29 at 6 pm in our normal classroom.**</b>			

### Notes on Course Schedule:

- The chapters listed are the chapters we will be covering in class *that week*. Therefore, you are expected to have the readings completed prior to that class (except for the first class).
- Readings not from Walton and Rockoff are available on Canvas.
- Quizzes and Reaction Papers are due on Canvas before class (by 6 pm) on the days listed.

*This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. The instructor may modify it when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification. All changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.*