

U.S. Economic History

Econ 1740-004

Economics Department, 3 Credit hours

MW 9:00 - 12:00

Instructor: Jacob Jennings jake_jennings@utah.edu

Office Hours: by appointment only, but feel free to contact me before or after class in OSH213

Course Description:

This class uses an economic framework to address the historical development of the United States from its colonial beginnings to the present. Economics is the study of how society produces goods and services to enable people to function, live, and work, but it also questions how that which is produced is distributed. This course will follow these questions of production and distribution as well as outlining capitalism's growth and impact on American society. The course will attempt to help students better understand the influence of past economic forces and decisions have played on the modern U.S. economic system.

Course Objectives:

By completion of this course the student will:

- gain a more detailed knowledge of US history identifying important people, events, and developments
- will become familiar with important measures of economic performance and how those have changed
- utilize individual critical, analytical, and integrative thinking as well as collaboration and work in teams to analyze past and current economic problems

Required text:

The Economic Transformation of America: 1600 to the Present by Robert Heilbroner and Aaron Singer, 4th edition, ISBN: 0-15-505530-5

Suggested readings (not required):

- *History of The American Economy* by Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff, 11th edition, ISBN:9780324786620
- Other reading as assigned

Requirements and Grading:

Exams

There will be two exams: a mid-term and a final. The first mid-term exam will be held on Wednesday, July 11. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, August 1, at 9:00 a.m. in our regular room.

The mid-term exam will each be worth 25% of your grade. The final will be worth 30%. The final exam will emphasize material from the second part of the course but will include some comprehensive material. All exams will consist of a mix of "multiple choice" and short essay 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 emergencies. Otherwise, failure to take an Exam at the scheduled time will result in a 0 for the exam.

Participation/Group Discussions

Part of life and education is simply showing up. Students are expected to attend class and participate. Also throughout the course we will have group activities where students will discuss a topic or question and then present it to the class.

Essay on Current Events

An important element of this course is recognizing the importance of past decisions in our current events. In writing an essay roughly 5 pages in length, students will demonstrate an understanding of specific historical events and their long-long lasting impacts. Students also need to show connections and significance of historical events to contemporary issues.

Topic examples include but are not limited to: American Growth and Development, Income Inequality, Energy and Environmental impacts, Trade and Protectionism, Changing Standards of Living, Immigration, Evolving Fiscal and Monetary Policy, and Labor Market Discrimination. Feel free to discuss your topic with me before or after class or through email.

Presentation

Students will give a 5-7 minute presentation relating to the importance of a topic, chapter or specific event within our reading. These will be given during the last half hour of class every Wednesday except for the first week and exam dates. An ideal presentation will demonstrate an understanding of the material; explain the relevance within the historical context, and how it relates to us today.

On the second day of class we will pass around a sign up sheet to pick days and topics. These will be closely related to what are discussing in lecture and group discussions.

	Score	GPA
A	: 93-100	4.0
A-	: 90-92	3.7
B+	: 87-89	3.3
B	: 83-86	3.0
B-	: 80-82	2.7
C+	: 77-79	2.3
C	: 73-76	2.0
C-	: 70-72	1.7
D+	: 67-69	1.3
D	: 63-66	1.0
D-	: 60-62	0.7
E	: 0-59	0.0

Weighting of exams and assignments:

Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Essay	25%
Presentation	10%
Participation/group	10%

Class Policies:

Students should speak with instructor *in advance* to request special consideration of extenuating circumstance that prevent their taking an exam or submitting an assignment at the scheduled time. Exams may only be taken the day indicated in the course schedule.

No extra credit is given in this class; students already have sufficient opportunities for learning and for demonstrating their knowledge of the subject and their effort and commitment in the class.

As a courtesy to everyone present, please arrive on time to class. Consistent attendance is recommended, but attendance is not taken.

This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.

Disabilities:

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 (CDS), 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.

Instructor Responsibilities:

The instructor will convene class at the scheduled time, ensure that the environment is conducive to learning, enforce the student code, grade and return assignments and exams in a timely manner, and inform students at the beginning of class of course content, requirements, evaluation methods, grading scale, schedule, and due dates. Please contact the instructor soon with any concerns regarding the way he facilitates learning this term.

Should the instructor be late for class or unable to arrive due to weather, sickness, or other reasons, the department will be notified and its representative will inform students of the situation. Students may inquire by calling the economics department at 581-7481.

In the event of an absence by the instructor or any other circumstance that prevents class meetings, messages via WebCT and email will inform students of out-of-class online readings, discussions, and writing assignments that will substitute for in-class learning.

Important Dates:

Summer Second Session Classes

Event	Dates
Classes begin	Thursday, June 21
Last day to drop (delete) classes	Saturday, June 30
Last day to add, elect CR/NC, or audit classes	Thursday, July 5

Last day to withdraw from classes	Friday, July 13
Last day to reverse CR/NC option	Friday, July 27
Classes end	Wednesday, August 1

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*

Intro to Econ and Pre-Colonization Europe	(Lecture 1)	6/25
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 1 Hunt Ch.2 (available on Canvas)		
Colonization	(Lecture 2)	6/27
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 2 and 3		
Pre-Revolution to Civil War Era	(Lecture 3)	7/2
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 4 and 5		
Immigration, Energy and Land	(Lecture 4)	7/9
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 6		
Industrial Revolution, and Business	(Lecture 5)	7/11
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 7 and 8		
Midterm and <i>The Crash of 1929</i>		7/16
The Roaring 20's, Labor, and Inequality	(Lecture 6)	7/18
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 10 and 11		
The Great Depression, Financial and Current Crisis discussion	(Lecture 7)	7/23
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 12 and Eichengreen (Available on Canvas)		
The New Deal to WW2 Economy	(Lecture 8)	7/25
Read: Heilbroner Ch. 13 and Hannsgen and Papadimitriou (Available on Canvas)		
Big Government Capitalism, Changes in Monetary and Fiscal Policy	(Lecture 9)	7/27
Read Heilbroner Ch. 14 and 15		
Rise of Neo-liberalism and Contemporary America	(Lecture 10)	5/1
Read : Heilbroner Ch. 15 and Baker (Available on Canvas)		
Final		5/3

* The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule as the course progresses. Any changes to the above schedule will be made with appropriate prior notice