



### **Syllabus**

#### **Economics 1740 Section 001: US Economic History**

Summer 2014: M,W 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, OSH 113

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:** After class and 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 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”)

We will discuss a lot of 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: 20%
- II. Reaction Papers: 20%
- III. Exams: one midterm and a final, each worth 25%, for a total of 50%
- IV. Participation: 10%

#### **I. Quizzes (4 quizzes x 5% each = 20%)**

Quizzes are my catchall phrase. Sometimes, they will be multiple-choice and short answer and sometimes they will be debates. They will be administered via Canvas and are due by midnight the day before class on the date listed in the Course Schedule.

#### **II. 1 Page Reaction Papers (4 reactions x 5% each = 20%)**

Reaction papers to in-class discussions and readings are due about every other class, on alternate class days from quizzes, to be submitted via Canvas *before* class. I will provide prompts for papers the class before they are due. 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 (2 exams x 25% each = 50%)**

There will be two equally weighted exams in this class: one midterm, **May 28** and a final on **June 18<sup>th</sup>** in our normal classroom. Exams will be a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions. Exams are not cumulative.

#### **IV. Participation (10%)**

Your participation grade is calculated via in-class assignments 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 once class).

**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 class day 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. 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.

<b>Important Dates for First Session Classes</b>	
<b>Events</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Classes begin	Monday, May 12
Last day to drop (delete) classes	Wednesday, May 21
Last day to add, elect CR/NC, or audit classes	Tuesday, May 27
Last day to withdraw from classes	Friday, May 30
Last day to reverse CR/NC option	Friday, June 13
Classes end	Wednesday, June 18

## Tentative Course Schedule: Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Class	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignment
1	5/12	Economic History? Pre-Industrial Europe	Gordon (2004) "Introduction" Heilbroner (1994) "Ch. 2"
2	5/14	Colonial America War for Independence and the New Nation	W&R: Ch. 3 *only your assigned region Ch. 4 p. 60-61 & p. 68-70 All Ch. 6-7
3	5/19	Antebellum Economic Growth	W&R: Ch. 10-11 <b>*Paper 1 Due*</b>
4	5/21	Slavery, Civil War	W&R: Ch. 13-14 <b>*Quiz 1 Due*</b>
5	5/26	Railroads and the West	W&R: Ch. 16 <b>*Paper 2 Due*</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>5/28</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	
7	6/2	Industrial Expansion The Roaring Twenties	W&R: Ch. 17-18 W&R: Ch. 22 <b>*Quiz 2 Due*</b>
8	6/4	The Great Depression and the New Deal	W&R: Ch. 23-24 Steinbeck <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> Ch. 25 <b>*Paper 3 Due*</b>
9	6/9	WWII and the War Economy The Changing Role of the Federal Gov't "The Golden Age"	W&R: Ch. 25, 27 <b>*Quiz 3 Due*</b>
10	6/11	"The Great Inflation" The Conservative Era and the Modern Economy	W&R: Ch. 29 <b>*Paper 4 Due*</b>
11	6/16	The Great Recession, Future Directions, and Class Review	Articles on Canvas <b>*Quiz 4 Due*</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>6/18</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	

### *Notes on Course Schedule:*

- I anticipate some weeks we will cover more material and some weeks, less. Therefore, expect these reading assignments to be slightly modified weekly. Assignments given at the end of class will reflect true assignments for the following class period.
- The chapters listed are the chapters we will be covering in class *that day*. 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 the night before class (by midnight) 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.*