

ECON 1740-002: US Economic History

Spring 2020

Monday & Wednesday, 1:25 – 2:45 PM, GC 2950

- Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites, although a cursory knowledge of US history will be useful.

Instructor: Grant Thompson

Email: grant.thompson@utah.edu

Office Hour: Tuesday 1:00, in the economics department

Course Description

This course will cover US economic history from the pre-colonial period until the 2008 financial crisis. To study this long span of development, the class will be split into 3 broad sections: Pre-industrialization, which will cover pre-Colombian North American economic conditions, Atlantic contact, and the institutions that will influence later development; Industrialization, which will cover the material and economic conditions through the Industrial Revolution; and Depression/Recession, which will cover the recurrence of panics, recessions, and depressions, with a focus on the Great Depression and the 2008 financial crisis. Particular emphasis will be given to the institutional framework (political, social, and legal) directing economic development.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, a successful student will:

- Have an understanding of the structural change of the US economy from the pre-colonial period until the present;
- Be able to consider economic, political, and social structures holistically;
- Become familiar with the basic measures and methods of economic history;
- Develop a foundation to contextualize current economic issues in light of historical trends and previous events;
- Understand the role of government regulation and international trade in economic development;

There are no required texts for this class. Readings will consist of journal articles and book chapters posted to Canvas.

Methods/Grading

There will be weekly quizzes covering the week's material (class lectures, articles, book chapters, & videos posted to Canvas). These will represent 40% of your grade, and the lowest two will be dropped. There will also be a midterm (20%) and a final (40%).

Course Policies

The material provided through Canvas will be different from what is covered in class. As such, attendance is highly recommended. Food, drink, and computers are fine so long as they do not distract others.

The class will focus on many topics and provide room for discussion on issues that may be contentious. The primary focus will be academically and logically assessing opposing views and critical evaluation. This may result in interpersonal tension. The university's policy is as follows:

The values held most strongly by the University of Utah community are those of academic freedom and integrity as they are expressed collectively by the colleges and departments as well as individually through research and teaching and as they exist within the wider context of advanced study as commonly understood by all universities. The community also values diversity and respect, without which there can be no collegiality among faculty and students. In addition, the University community values individual rights and freedoms, including the right of each community member to adhere to individual systems of conscience, religion, and ethics. Finally, the University recognizes that with all rights come responsibilities. The University works to uphold its collective values by fostering free speech, broadening fields of inquiry, and encouraging generation of new knowledge that challenges, shapes, and enriches our collective and individual understandings. <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

I hope to cultivate a safe atmosphere for expression, discussion, and argument. I will, however, censure antagonism.

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Policy

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services.

Additionally, the University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135

Salt Lake City, UT, 84112

801-581-8365 (voice/tdd)

801-585-5746 (fax)

www.oeo.utah.edu

Faculty and Student Rights and Responsibilities:

My commitment to you is that we will cover the material described above and carry out the assignments as described (barring unforeseeable complications such as my becoming severely ill, closure of the campus, destruction of the internet, being stranded on a mountain like Cliffhanger, etc.). I will also strive to ensure fairness in evaluating your work. Your responsibilities include keeping up with lectures and assignments, observing a high level of academic integrity in all of your work, avoiding plagiarism, and helping to create a respectful atmosphere conducive to learning.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

For definitions of plagiarism, as well as methods of avoidance and other pertinent information, see <http://campusguides.lib.utah.edu/c.php?g=237735&p=1585525>.

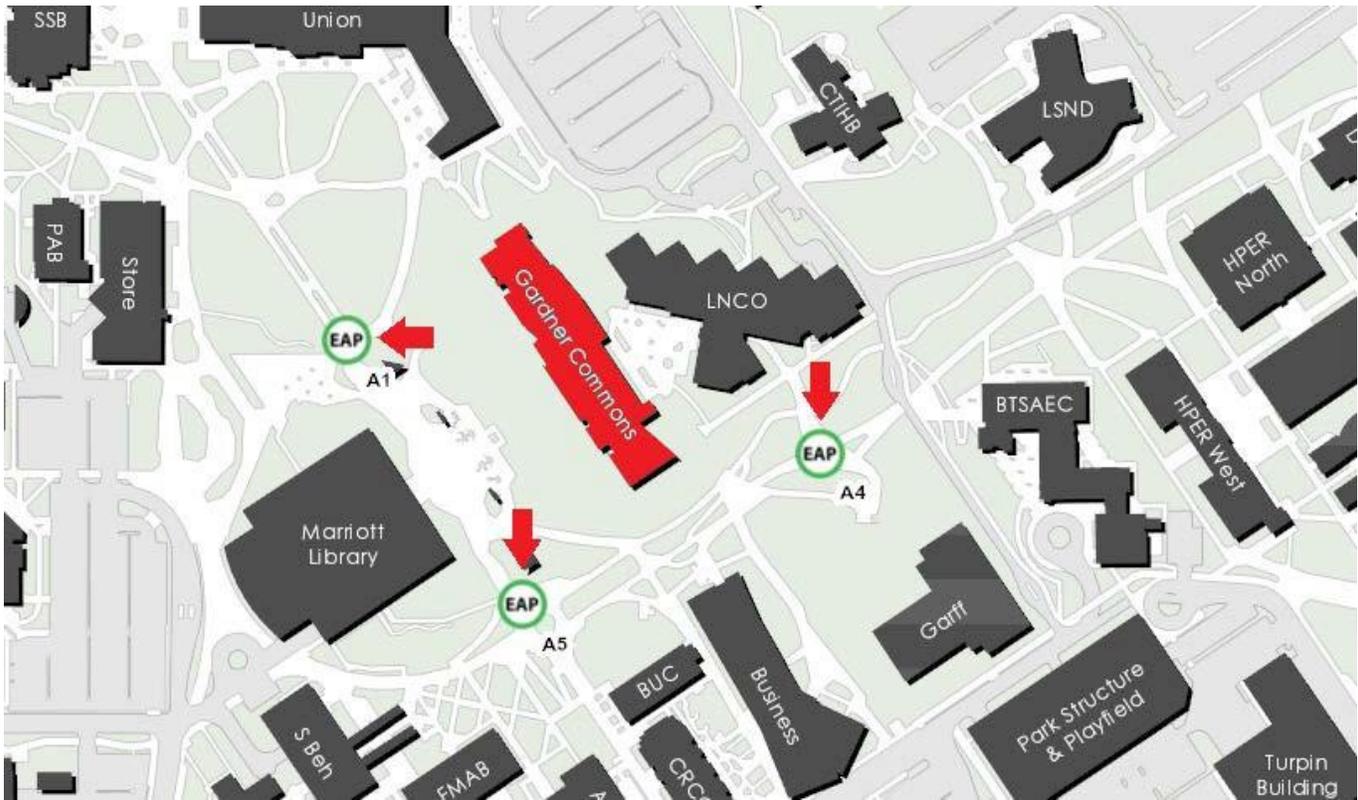
Other University policies such as harassment, withdrawal, and the student grievance process can be found at the website of the registrar.

Course Outline (Subject to change)

Week 1: 1/6 & 1/8	1/6: Syllabus; What is History? What is Economics?
	1/8: Pre-Colonial Economic History
Week 2: 1/13 & 1/15	1/13: Pre-Industrial Material Conditions
	1/15: Mercantilism & Atlantic Contact
Week 3: 1/20 & 1/22	1/20: CLASS CANCELLED: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	1/22: Economics, Revolutionary War, & the Constitution
Week 4: 1/27 & 1/29	1/27: Institutions
	1/29: Slavery
Week 5: 2/3 & 2/5	2/3: Federalism & Expansion
	2/5: Economics of the Civil War
Week 6: 2/10 & 2/12	2/10: Industrialization
	2/12: Industrialization
Week 7: 2/17 & 2/19	2/17: CLASS CANCELLED: Presidents' Day
	2/19: MIDTERM
Week 8: 2/24 & 2/26	2/24: Railroads
	2/26: Railroads & Finance
Week 9: 3/2 & 3/4	3/2: Business Structure
	3/4: Vertical & Horizontal Integration
Week 10: 3/9 & 3/11	3/9: CLASS CANCELLED: Spring Break
	3/11: CLASS CANCELLED: Spring Break
Week 11: 3/16 & 3/18	3/16: Crash of 1929
	3/18: Great Depression
Week 12: 3/23 & 3/25	3/23: Hooverilles
	3/25: Cold War (Guest Lecture)
Week 13: 3/30 & 4/1	3/30: Labor
	4/1: Expansionism
Week 14: 4/6 & 4/8	4/6: History of Cities (Guest Lecture)
	4/8: Technology
Week 15: 4/13 & 4/15	4/13: 2008
	4/15: Water in the Arid West
Week 16: 4/20 & 4/22	4/20: Review
	4/22: CLASS CANCELLED: Reading Day

Final Exam: TBD

CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call [801-585-2677](tel:801-585-2677). You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

