

U.S. Economic History

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30-12:30pm, or by appointment

Required Texts:

Jeremy Atack, Peter Passell. [A New Economic View of American History: From Colonial Times to 1940](#). 2nd edition. Norton.

We will also read academic articles. You can download these articles on JSTOR.org using any computer hooked into the CSUF network or through the CSUF library website. I will also post all articles on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of one “mid-term” examination, a final examination, and one term paper. There will be no make-up examinations. If the mid-term is missed, the final will carry the additional weight **if and only if** a valid excuse (e.g., doctor’s note) is presented.

The term paper is due in class on the date listed below. I will accept papers without penalty up through the end of the class period. Any papers turned in after this time will be accepted, but will carry a penalty (unless, of course, you have a valid, documented excuse).

Course Goals

This course is aimed at facilitating critical thinking. This class will provide: 1) a general overview of important events and periods in the economic history of the U.S.; 2) an analysis of important historical events from an economic viewpoint. The term paper should include both of these elements, especially the latter.

Academic Dishonesty

Become very familiar with the statement on academic dishonesty found in your California State University Catalogue.

Withdrawal and Drop Policy

See your California State University Catalogue.

Grading

There are 100 possible points. The grading breakdown is as follows:

Class Participation	10 points
Term Paper	40 points
Midterm Examination	20 points
Final Examination	30 points

Term Paper

The topic of your term paper can cover any period or event in U.S. economic history. It should be 7-12 pages long and include data analysis. You will be required to stop by my office at least once two weeks prior to the due date to discuss your paper topic.

Students with Disabilities

The University requires students with disabilities to register with the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), located in UH-101 and at (657) 278 – 3112, in order to receive prescribed accommodations appropriate to their disability. Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor during the first week of classes about any disability or special needs that may require specific arrangements/accommodations related to attending class sessions, completing course assignments, writing papers or quizzes/tests/examinations.

Assessment Statement

The main purpose of the degree program at the Mihaylo College of Business & Economics (College) at Cal State Fullerton is to provide you with the knowledge and skills that prepare you for a successful career in business. In order to assist us in achieving this goal, we will use a number of assessment tools to track your progress throughout the College curriculum. Please expect to participate in College assessment activities in several of your courses while at CSU, Fullerton. As you do so, you will assist us in identifying our program's strengths and weaknesses as well as areas for potential improvement. In other words, you are making an important investment in the value of your degree.

Course Outline

This is a very tentative schedule and is subject to change at any time. All due dates and examination dates will not be changed, however.

(AP): Atack and Passell text
**: Optional Readings

Overview – What is Economic History? (Aug. 25, 27, Sept. 1)

AP: Introduction, Ch. 1

David, Paul A., "Clio and the Economics of QWERTY," *American Economic Review*, 1985.

Whaples, Robert, "Where is the Consensus Among American Economic Historians? The Results of a Survey on Forty Propositions," *Journal of Economic History*, 1995.

McCloskey, Donald N., "Does the Past Have Useful Economics?," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1976.

North, Douglass C., "Institutions," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 1991.

The Colonial Economy and Independence (Sept. 3)

AP: Ch. 2

Galenson, David, "The Rise and Fall of Indentured Servitude: An Economic Analysis," *Journal of Economic History*, 1984.

An Economic Interpretation of the U.S. Revolution (Sept. 8)

AP: Ch. 3

Egnal, Marc and Joseph Ernst, "An Economic Interpretation of the American Revolution," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1972.

The Nineteenth-Century Transportation Boom (Sept. 10, 15)

AP: Ch. 6, 16

Klein, Daniel B., "The Voluntary Provision of Public Goods? The Turnpike Companies of Early America," *Economic Inquiry*, 1990.

**Fogel, Robert, "A Quantitative Approach to the Study of Railroads in American Economic Growth: A Report of Some Preliminary Findings," *Journal of Economic History*, 1962.

Slavery (Sept. 17, 22, 24)

AP: Ch. 11, 12

Ransom, Roger, and Richard Sutch, "Capitalists Without Capital," *Agricultural History*, 1988.

Wright, Gavin, "Slavery and American Agricultural History," *Agricultural History*, 2003.

**Fleisig, Haywood, "Slavery, the Supply of Agricultural Labor, and the Industrialization of the South," *Journal of Economic History*, 1976. (reading the Appendix is optional)

The Economics and the Costs of the Civil War (Sept. 29, Oct. 1)

AP: Ch. 13, 14

Goldin, Claudia D. and Frank D. Lewis, "The Economic Cost of the American Civil War: Estimates and Implications," *Journal of Economic History*, 1975.

**Temin, Peter, "The Post-Bellum Recovery of the South and the Cost of the Civil War," *Journal of Economic History*, 1976.

Nineteenth-Century U.S. Industrialization (Oct. 6, 8, 13)

AP: Ch. 7, 17

Rosenbloom, Joshua L., "Path Dependence and the Origin of Cotton Textile Manufacturing in New England," 2004.

Chandler, Alfred D., "Organizational Capabilities and the Economic History of Industrial Enterprise," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 1992.

Wright, Gavin, "The Origins of American Industrial Success, 1879-1940," *American Economic Review*, 1990.

Term Paper Assigned: October 8

MIDTERM EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 15

October 20, 22: FURLOUGH DAYS, NO CLASS

- During the furlough days, you will be asked to write a one page précis for your term paper. This will not be binding, but it hopefully will get you started.

Labor and Immigration (Oct. 27, 29)

AP: Ch. 8, 19

Goldin, Claudia and Ken Sokoloff, "Women, Children, and Industrialization in the Early Republic: Evidence from the Manufacturing Censuses," *Journal of Economic History*, 1982.

World War I and the Roaring Twenties (Nov. 3)

AP: Ch. 20

Goldin, Claudia, "The Human-Capital Century and American Leadership: Virtues of the Past," *Journal of Economic History*, 2001.

The Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II (Nov. 5, 10, 12)

AP: Ch. 21, 22

White, Eugene, "The Stock Market Boom and Crash of 1929 Revisited," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 1990.

Field, Alexander, "The Most Technologically Progressive Decade of the Century," *American Economic Review*, 2003.

Calomiris, Charles W., "Financial Factors in the Great Depression," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 1993.

**Kossoudji, Sherrie A., and Laura J. Dresser, "Working Class Rosies: Women Industrial Workers During World War II," *Journal of Economic History*, 1992.

- **If we have time, we will dedicate at least half of a class to discussing the Great Depression in the context of the economic downturn of 2008-2009!!!**

The Growth of the Federal Government (Nov. 17, 19)

AP: Ch 23

**Higgs, Robert, "Wartime Prosperity? A Reassessment of the U.S. Economy in the 1940s," *Journal of Economic History*, 1992.

**Lindert, Peter, "The Rise of Social Spending, 1880-1930," *Explorations in Economic History*, 1994.

**Lindert, Peter, "What Limits Social Spending?," *Explorations in Economic History*, 1996.

THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov. 24, 26)

The Golden Age of U.S. Capitalism (Dec. 1, 3)

Wright, Gavin, "The Civil Rights Revolution as Economic History," *Journal of Economic History*, 1999.

Goldin, Claudia, "The Changing Economic Role of Women: A Quantitative Approach," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 1983.

Abramovitz, Moses, "Catching Up, Forging Ahead, Falling Behind," *Journal of Economic History*, 1986.

In-class review (Dec. 8, 10)

Term Paper Due: December 8 (in class)

FINAL EXAMINATION: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 5 PM
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