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## Syllabus

### U.S. Economic History

#### Overview

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ECON 1740-003, Su'12, 3 Credits, Fulfills AI Requirement

This class uses an economic framework to address the historical development of the United States from its colonial beginnings to the present. The economy is a system that harnesses human effort and other resources to provide material things for people and it shapes the social environment in which we live. As such, we not only will learn the important facts and institutions relating to US Economic History, but also the methods with which we may gain further insight. This course helps students better appreciate economic forces for historical change and to understand the economic consequences of historical events in the modern U.S. economic system.

#### Course Objectives

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By the end of the semester, a student who is successful in this course will have gained an understanding of

1. sources of economic growth in the US, including natural resource endowments, innovation and technological change, institutional change, and intra- and international trade (including innovations in communication and transportation)
2. effects of economic growth for the US population as a whole and for sub-populations, including the evolution of living standards, changes in the nature of work, and the increasing role of markets in peoples lives
3. measurement of important economic concepts and variables, including gross domestic product, income, wealth, unemployment, and inflation
4. evolution of US government policy as it relates to the economy, including the

growth of the public sector over time, the regulation of the labor market (including the operation and abolition of slavery and the regulation of immigration), and the use of fiscal and monetary policy to mitigate the harmful effects of economic downturns

5. application of historical insights to contemporary policy debates
6. functioning of the modern U.S. economic system from an analysis of its past

## Office Hours

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Tuesday and Thursday after class, other times by appointment. Simply send an email in Canvas to coordinate a time.

## Textbook and Readings

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In this course we will use *American Economic History 8th Edition* by Hughes and Cain. This **required** textbook can be purchased from the book store or online sources.

## Grading and Requirements

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There will be nine (9) in class short essays, one at the end of most classes. One may be dropped when calculating the final grade, therefore no make-ups will be given. These essays will focus on integrating readings, video, and lecture. 40 Percent of Course Grade.

There will be eight (8) reading quizzes given at the beginning of class. One may be dropped when calculating the final grade, therefore no make-ups will be given. These will be exclusively from the textbook readings. 40 Percent of Course Grade.

There will be a Midterm Exam on 7-10-12 covering previous material. This exam must be taken on the exam date (no make-up). 10 Percent of Course Grade.

There will be a comprehensive Final Exam on 7-31-12. This exam must be taken on the exam date (no make-up). 10 Percent of Course Grade.

## Course Website

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On Canvas for this section you will find the syllabus and grades. You should also use Canvas for email, chat, questions, discussions, or other correspondence.

## Class Policies

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Use computers for taking notes only. Do not use the internet or correspond with others

during class time. Do not use cell phones during class (including text or pictures).

Please feel free to talk with me during office hours, discussion sections, or by Canvas email regarding anything in the class, about economics, or the economics major in general.

Exams may only be taken during the time indicated in this syllabus.

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

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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and with me to make arrangements for accommodations.

Rights and responsibilities - All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content.

According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

**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.**

### **Class Number; Date; Content (Tentative)**

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1. 6-21-12: Introduction and Lecture (Basic Economics and European Beginnings), Essay 1
2. 6-26-12: Chapters 1, 2; Lecture (Colonial Dev and Conflict), Video (Rebels), Essay 2
3. 6-28-12: Chapter 3; Lecture (Malthus; Labor; Capitalism), Video (Revolution), Essay 3
4. 7-3-12: Chapters 4, 5; Lecture (Economic Link with Britain), Video (Westward), Essay 4
5. 7-5-12: Chapters 8, 12; Lecture (Transporation, Hamilton vs. Jefferson), Video (Division), Essay 5
6. 7-10-12: Lecture; Midterm Exam (Chs. 1-5, 7, 12, 13; Video; Lecture)
7. 7-12-12: Chapter 20; Lecture (Int. Trade then and now); Video (Heartland), Essay 6

8. 7-17-12: Chapter 24; Lecture (From Boom to Collapse), Video (Boom), Essay 7
9. 7-19-12: Chapter 25; Lecture (Govt and the Economy), Video (Bust), Essay 8
10. 7-24-12: No Class, Pioneer Holiday
11. 7-26-12: Chapter 27; Lecture (The Golden Age), Video (WWII), Essay 9
12. 7-31-12: Comprehensive Final Exam