

Econ 125: Economic History of the U.S.
SSII Quarter 2018

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Office hours MW 12:30 – 1:30
Engineering 2 Room 403E

Overview: This course examines the development of the American economy from colonial times to the present, with emphasis on the interaction between institutional structure and economic development. Topics include the economics of slavery, the rise of big business, and the causes of the Great Depression.

Prerequisites: Economics 1 and Economics 2.

Class Meetings: Lectures will meet at E&M B214, on Mondays, Wednesdays from 9-12:30pm.

Sections:

TA Office Hours:

Requirements and Grading:

- 1) The required text is available from online suppliers.
Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy with Economic Applications*, 12th ed. Thomson/Southwestern, 2014. (denoted below as W&R). The 10th edition is out of print, but used copies of the 10th and 11th editions are also acceptable, if you can find them. I will also use *The Worldly Philosophers* for some insight into the great economic thinkers of the time frame we will be covering.

There will be one midterm exams, worth 30% of the grade, and a comprehensive final exam worth 35%. The midterm exams are scheduled to be held in class on Wednesday, August 15th. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th. I will not offer make-up exams for either the midterms or the final. Midterms and final exams consist of a mix of multiple choice and short essay questions. You must pass both the multiple choice and essay components to pass the exam. Essay questions are drawn from a longer list of review questions posted on the course web site beforehand. Students see the longer list in advance, but only learn the exam questions when the exam begins. Students are welcome to prepare for the exams in groups, but each student must write their own individual, closed-book exam. Any student found with notes of any kind during the exam will be failed

- 2) The Essay Requirement is worth 25%. Students must write a one page (65 lines), typed, double-spaced essay based on reading of literature in economic history. Essay topics, each accompanied by suggested readings, will be posted on the course web site. Students should pick one suggested topic to write on. Students must read and cite at least two of the suggested readings. The more readings an essay makes effective use of, other things equal, the higher the evaluation of the essay. Essays may not be longer than 1 ½ typed, double-spaced pages. It is the responsibility of the student to condense and summarize in order to stay within the length limit. In instructor evaluation of student essays, the most important consideration is the force of argument in terms of accuracy, clarity, and cogency. Most student essays suffer from inaccuracy or lack of clarity caused by sloppy English or sloppy thinking—the two are hard to distinguish. Hence, good English usage counts insofar as it helps make for clear, careful writing. It is also important that student essays stick to the question—the length limitation allows no space to stray—and offer a cogent argument, backed by citation of sources. Except in cases of illness (or other extenuating circumstances), late essays will be penalized. Students who fail to turn in an essay will not receive a passing grade for the course.
- Typed rough draft of the essay (100 lines of text) is due
 - Typed final draft of the essay is due
- 3) Quizzes and attendance are worth 10%. There will be frequent, short-essay, one-question quizzes during class time. Students receive credit both for being present and for being prepared enough to answer the quiz question. Students who are absent and unprepared on a regular basis will be unable to pass the course. Sections are required and afford the opportunity for students to discuss the material. Because the course covers a large body of material which is difficult to remember, reinforcement of memory through participation in section is required and is very helpful. Attendance in section counts toward the participation component of student evaluation.
- 4) I take the issue of cheating very seriously and adhere to University guidelines regarding the consequences of cheating and plagiarism. This especially can be an issue in large classes. If you are concerned about instances of cheating that are not noticed by me or the TAs, please bring them to our attention so that we can be more vigilant. All students must bring student identification with picture to every examination. These will be checked.

Miscellaneous:

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g., office hours) within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact the DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), or <http://drc.ucsc.edu> for more information on the requirements and/or process.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Readings</u>
7/30-8/1	W&R, ch. 1 Colonial America and the American Revolution W&R, selections from chs 2,3,4,5,6
8/6-	Industry and Economy 1790-1860 W&R, chs. 7, 8, 9, 10
-8/8	Money and Banking in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century W&R, chs. 11, 12, 13
8/13	Select midterm review questions posted on course web site. W&R, chs. 14, 15, 16
8/15	Midterm Examination
8/20	Rough draft of essay due. Must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 100 lines in length Slavery, The Civil War and Post-Bellum Regional Divergence W&R, ch 17, 18, 19, 20
8/22	The Rise of Big Business, Organized Labor, and Regulation W&R, chs. 21, 22 The Great Depression and New Deal W&R, chs. 23-25
8/27	Business Cycles in the US since WWII W&R ch. 26, 27, 28, 29
8/29	Final draft of essay due. Must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1 ½ pages in length. Final examination. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.