

Econ 125: Economic History of the U.S.
SS1

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Office hours: Tu. 1230 – 2:30
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 Phys. Sci. Rm 110, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-1230pm.

Sections:

TA Office Hours:

Requirements and Grading:

- 1) The text is not required but is available from the Bay Tree Bookstore or 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.
- 2) One of my favorite Econ. History books is called “The Worldly Philosophers.” I feel that it will help you be able to write a good final essay.
- 3) There will be one midterm exam, worth 35% of the grade, a Final Essay worth 40%, and quizzes worth 25% of the final grade.
- 4) The midterm exam is scheduled to be held in class on July 11th, 2019. I will not offer make-up exams for the midterm. The midterm exam consists of short essay questions from topics we discuss in class. 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.

- 5) The Essay Requirement is worth 40%. Students must write a ten (10) page, typed, double-spaced essay about a historical figure in economics (either the person themselves, their work, or a combination of both). Students must read and cite at least five (5) sources. The more readings an essay makes effective use of, ceteris paribus, the higher the evaluation of the essay. Essays may not be longer than ten (10) 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 evaluations 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 and offer a cogent argument, backed by the citation of sources. Except in cases of illness (or other extenuating circumstances), late essays will not be accepted. Students who fail to turn in an essay will not receive a passing grade for the course.

– Typed final draft of the essay is due online (canvas submission) July 25th, 2019.

- 6) Quizzes/Attendance are worth 25%. 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.
- 7) 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 might 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>
6/25-6/27	Introduction and Syllabus, Tulip Mania, Economic Growth Statistics, Colonial American Economy, Mercantilism.
7/2-7/4	Technological Growth, Transportation Holiday
7/9-7/11	Money and Banking, Westward Expansion, (More) Transportation, Beginning Industrialization.
7/18	Midterm Exam
7/16-7/18	The Slave Economy and the Causes of the Civil War Slavery, The Civil War and Post-Bellum Regional Divergence
7/23-7/25	The Rise of Big Business, Organized Labor, and Regulation The Great Depression and New Deal Business Cycles in the US since WWII
7/25	Final examination.