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**Syllabus**

**Economics 1740 Section 1: US Economic History**

Fall 2013: T, H 2:00-3:20 pm OSH 202

3 Credits, Fulfills American Institutions (AI) Credit

**Instructor:** Jacki Strenio

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**Office:** Economics Department (OSH 3rd floor), Cubicle #8

**Office Hours:** Tues & Thur 12:45-1:45 pm; other times by appointment

**Course overview:**

“How can we know who we are and where we are going if we don't know anything about where we have come from and what we have been through, the courage shown, the costs paid, to be where we are?”

― David McCullough (1991) *Brave Companions: Portraits in History*

This course examines the past four centuries of US history focusing specifically on the country’s economic transformation from the colonial period to the present. As McCullough expresses, we are able to more clearly see the present and prepare for the future by learning from our past experiences. This is especially relevant after the recent Great Recession of 2007-8. This course aims to illuminate and reflect on this unique and epic economic history of the United States.

**Course outcomes:**

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

* The 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),
* The effects of economic growth for the US population as a whole and for sub-populations,
* The measurement of important economic concepts and variables and specifically their application to history,
* The evolution of US government policy as it relates to the economy,
* The ways in which history allows us to better understand the present.

**Texts and other materials:**

* Walton and Rockoff, History of the American Economy, 11th Edition. OH: Cengage, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0324786620
  + Required, but a copy is also available through Course Reserves at the Marriot Library. More information on using Course Reserves is available on Canvas and the library website.
  + Note: You will *not* need the access card.
* Various articles and book excerpts (posted in Canvas under “Files” 🡪 “Readings”)
* America: The Story of US, 2010. (A History Channel miniseries)

**Assignments and grading:**

1. Quizzes: 15%
2. Reaction Papers: 15%
3. Exams: 2 midterms and a final, each worth 20%, for a total of 60%
4. Participation: 10%
5. **Quizzes (6 quizzes – 1 dropped = 5 graded quizzes x 3% each = 15%)**

Multiple-choice, online quizzes administered every other week. They are based on the assigned readings from Walton and Rockoff as well as various assigned articles from the prior two weeks. Quizzes will be administered via Canvas. They will be released Monday mornings at 6 am on quiz weeks and due by 1:30 pm on Tuesdays *before* class. Please work alone and with book closed. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

\*\*Late quizzes will not be accepted.\*\*

1. **Reaction Papers (5 reactions x 3% each = 15%)**

Reaction papers to in-class videos are due every other week, on alternate weeks from quizzes. Reaction papers are graded on the following criteria. Please be aware that I will be using TurnItIn software so make sure you appropriately cite all sources and quotes.

**Content:** Addresses the provided prompt. Appropriately cites sources.

**Format:** 1-page, double-spaced, 1” margins. Please use 12 pt Times New

Roman, Cambria or Arial font.

**Due:** submit *via Canvas* before class (by 1:59 pm) every other Tuesday.

\*\*Late reaction papers will not be accepted.\*\*

1. **Exams (3 exams x 20% each = 60%)**

There will be three equally weighted exams in this class. Two midterms, **October 8 and November 19**, and a final, **December 18, 1-3 pm**in our normal classroom. Exams will be a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Exams are not cumulative.

1. **Participation (10%)**

Your participation grade is calculated in two ways: in-class assignments periodically given throughout the semester and Key Points. On Thursdays after every video, you will break into assigned groups to compile a list of key points from that week’s lecture and video segment. You and your group will turn in your key points with the names of everyone present to receive participation points for the week. Type them up and submit online via Canvas – make sure to include all the names of present group members at the top of the page. (Only one key points needs to be submitted per group). I will compile and post these key points before exams, which will then act as your study guide. Not only is this a painless way to get full credit on 10% of your final grade, but it is also a way to consistently reflect on and summarize class material in smaller groups. The groups will change 2 times per semester, once for each segment of the class. I recommend at least one group member bringing a laptop to class on Thursdays to type up notes and submit immediately via Canvas. One set of key points per group must be submitted on Canvas by *Friday at midnight following the Thursday class*.

**Extra credit:**

Various opportunities will be announced in class and on Canvas

**Grade scale:**

A: 92+ C: 70 – 74.9

A-: 90 - 91.9 C-: 65 – 69.9

B+: 88 - 89.9 D+: 63 – 64.9

B: 82 - 87.9 D: 57 – 62.9

B-: 80 - 81.9 D-: 55 – 56.9

C+: 75 - 79.9 E: < 55



**Course policies:**

* Students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting. This means refraining fromusing cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devices and only using a laptop to take notes and/or type up and submit key points.
* Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor, only for very serious, verifiable medical reasons, and only if cleared in advance.
* I expect that you will attend class, arrive on time, and contribute to class discussions.
* Canvas will be utilized in this class for submitting written assignments as well as for posting grades. You are responsible for monitoring your grades on Canvas that are posted throughout the semester and alerting me to any discrepancies *on or before the last day of class*.
* You are required to take all reading quizzes online via Canvas; however, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If you choose not to take any of the quizzes, you will receive a zero on that quiz (unless arrangements are made before a quiz is missed).

**University policies:**

* *Academic (Dis)Honesty.* Academic dishonesty of any kind is a serious offense, which undermines both the reputation and quality of the degrees issued by the University of Utah. Plagiarism of any kind, intentional and/or unintentional, will result in strict sanctions against the student per university policy. Please meet with me immediately if you are unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism.
* *The University Code: Section V. A.* Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to, refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one’s work, and/or inappropriately collaborating.
* *Section V. B.* A student who engages in academic misconduct … may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**

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 the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Important dates:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Events** | **Dates** |
| Classes begin | Monday, August 26 |
| Labor Day holiday | Monday, September 2 |
| Last day to add without a permission code | Monday, September 2 |
| Last day to drop (delete) classes | Wednesday, September 4 |
| Last day to add, elect CR/NC, or audit classes | Monday, September 9 |
| Fall break | Sun-Sun, October 13-20 |
| Last day to withdraw from classes | Friday, October 25 |
| Thanksgiving break | Thur-Fri, November 28-29 |
| Last day to reverse CR/NC option | Friday, December 6 |
| Classes end | Friday, December 13 |
| **Final Exam** | **Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1:00 - 3:00 pm** |

**Course Schedule:**

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| **Week** | **Class** | **Reading/Assignment** | **Topic** |
| 1 | 27-Aug |  | Introduction |
|  | 29-Aug | Gordon (2004) "Introduction" \* | Economic History? |
| 2 | 3-Sep | Heilbroner (1994) "Ch 2"\* | Pre-Industrial Europe |
|  | 5-Sep | W&R: Ch 2 | Early Attempts at Colonization |
| 3 | 10-Sep | W&R: Ch 3-4/Quiz 1 due | Colonial America |
|  | 12-Sep |  | *"Rebels"* |
| 4 | 17-Sep | W&R: Ch 6-7/Reaction 1 due | War for Independence and the New Nation |
|  | 19-Sep |  | *"Revolution"* |
| 5 | 24-Sep | W&R: Ch 10-11/Quiz 2 due | Antebellum Economic Growth |
|  | 26-Sep |  | *"Westward"* |
| 6 | 1-Oct | W&R: Ch 13-14/Reaction 2 due | Slavery, Civil War |
|  | 3-Oct |  | *"Division"* |
| 7 | 8-Oct | **Midterm 1** | |
|  | 10-Oct |  | *"Civil War"* |
| 8 | 15-Oct | **Fall Break** | |
|  | 17-Oct | **Fall Break** | |
| 9 | 22-Oct | W&R: Ch 15-16/Quiz 3 due | Railroads and the West |
|  | 24-Oct |  | *"Heartland"* |
| 10 | 29-Oct | W&R: Ch 17-19/Reaction 3 due | Industrial Expansion |
|  | 31-Oct |  | *"Cities"* |
| 11 | 5-Nov | W&R: Ch 20,22/Quiz 4 due | The Roaring Twenties |
|  | 7-Nov |  | *"Boom"* |
| 12 | 12-Nov | W&R: Ch 23-24/Reaction 4 due | The Great Depression and the New Deal |
|  | 14-Nov |  | *"Bust"* |
| 13 | 19-Nov | **Midterm 2** | |
|  | 21-Nov |  | *"WWII"* |
| 14 | 26-Nov | W&R: Ch 25-27/Quiz 5 due | WWII and the Postwar Era |
|  | 28-Nov | **Thanksgiving Break** | |
| 15 | 3-Dec | W&R: Ch 28-29/Reaction 5 due | Postwar Era, cont |
|  | 5-Dec |  | *"Superpower"* |
| 16 | 10-Dec | Quiz 6 due | Class Review and the Great Recession |
|  | 12-Dec |  | *"Millennium"* |
| **Final Exam is Wednesday December 18 from 1-3pm in OSH 202** | | | |

The chapters listed are the chapters we will be covering in class *that week*. Therefore, you are expected to have the readings completed previous to that class.

*This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. The instructor may modify it when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification. All changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.*