

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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Office Hours: T 1:00-2:30 PM
TH 11:15 AM-12:45 PM or by appointment

Economics 382
American Economic History
Fall, 2002
TTH 2:45-4:00 PM
Persson 210

AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

This course will deal with various aspects of the economic growth and development of the United States since colonial times. In addition to the basic history of growth and structure, this course will also cover such topics as population and migration; the labor force; agriculture; money and banking; transportation; slavery; the Civil War; industry studies; the Great Depression; and the growth of the government sector and regulation. Basic economic and demographic theory will be applied to historical events.

The requirements of the course include a midterm examination (30% of final grade), an 8-10 page paper (40% of final grade), and a final examination (30% of final grade). The final examination will cover the entire course. Failure to complete any part of the work will result in a grade of "F". The examinations will be, at least in part, in an essay format. The paper is to be on a topic of your choice, subject to the approval of, and consultation with, the instructor. The paper must be presented in accordance with a style sheet which will be distributed to you. Papers not so presented can be rejected. It will be due during the last class of the semester for this course. Regular class attendance is strongly urged, since materials will be covered in class that are not in the readings. Attendance at the two examinations is mandatory. Makeup examinations will not be scheduled unless you have an approved reason for missing the scheduled examination. This must be in writing from the office of the Academic Dean. Colgate University has specific policies with respect to academic integrity (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of work, etc.). This class will be conducted in a manner consistent with those university policies. The policies are described in detail in the Student Handbook.

Required Materials:

- (1) Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff. History of the American Economy. Ninth edition. New York: The Dryden Press, 2002.
- (2) Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell. An New Economic View of American History from Colonial Times to 1940. Second edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 1994.
- (3) Michael R. Haines, "An Introduction to the Demography of North America since 1600," an expanded version of a chapter in The Cambridge Economic History of the United States, Vol 2 (ms).

The additional readings will be on reserve.

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. What is Economic History?
Reading: Walton & Rockoff, ch. 1.
- B. Modernization, Economic Growth, and Structural Change.

Reading: Richard A. Easterlin, "Economic Growth: An Overview," in David L. Sills, ed., International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (NY: Macmillan, 1968), Vol. 4, pp. 395-408. Atack & Passell, ch. 1.

- C. The Demographic Transition, Population, Migration, and Urbanization.

Reading: Haines, "An Introduction to the Demography of North America since 1600." Atack & Passell, ch. 8. Walton & Rockoff, pp. .

II. THE ECONOMY TO 1790: the Colonial Period, the American Revolution, and the Confederation.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 2-7. Atack & Passell, chs. 2-3.

III. THE NATIONAL PERIOD (1790-1861), CIVIL WAR (1861-65), & INDUSTRIALIZING AMERICA (1865-1917).

A. The Agricultural Revolution in the North.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 8 & 15. Atack & Passell, chs. 9, 10, & 15.

B. Transportation and Commerce.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 9 & 16. Atack & Passell, chs. 5, 6, & 16.

C. Industrialization.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 10 & 17. Atack & Passell, chs. 7 & 17. Robert Whaples and Diane C. Betts, eds., Historical Perspectives on the American Economy, chs. 12-13 (pp. 428-481).

D. Labor Force.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 11 & 18. Atack & Passell, ch. 19. Herbert G. Gutman, "Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919," in Herbert G. Gutman, Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America (New York: Vintage Books, 1977), pp. 3-78.

E. The Economy of the Ante-Bellum South.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, ch. 13. Atack & Passell, chs. 11-12. Robert W. Fogel & Stanley Engerman, eds., The Reinterpretation of American Economic History (New York: Harper & Row, 1971), ch. 25. Whaples & Betts, chs. 5-7 (pp. 141-256).

F. The Economic Causes, Nature, and Consequences of the Civil War.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, ch. 14. Atack & Passell, ch. 13.

G. The Post-Bellum South.

Reading: Atack & Passell, ch. 14. Whaples & Betts, chs. 8-9 (pp. 257-313).

H. Banks and Financial Markets.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 12 & 19. Atack & Passell, chs. 4 & 18. Whaples & Betts, ch. 16 (pp. 524-548).

I. Trade & Commerce.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, ch. 20.

IV. THE ECONOMY SINCE 1917.

A. World War I.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, ch. 21. Atack & Passell, pp. 554-560.

B. The 1920's.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, ch. 22. Atack & Passell, pp. 560-582.

C. Interpreting the Great Depression and the New Deal.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 23 & 24. Atack & Passell, chs. 21-23.

D. World War II and after.

Reading: Walton & Rockoff, chs. 25-31.

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AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY
Tentative Schedule

<u>Dates</u>		<u>Topic</u>
9/2		Introductory Class.
9/3	I. A.	What is Economic History?
9/3-9/10	I. B.	Modernization, Economic Growth, & Structural Change.
9/12-9/19	I. C.	Demographic Transition, Population, Migration, & Urbanization.
9/24-9/26	II.	The Economy to 1790.
10/1-10/3	III. A.	The Agricultural Revolution.
10/8-10/10	III. B.	Transportation.
10/17-10/22	III. C.	Industrialization.
10/24		MIDTERM EXAMINATION
10/29-10/31	III. D.	Labor Force.
11/5-11/7	III. E.	The Economy of the Ante-Bellum South.
11/12	III. F.	The Economic Causes, Nature, & Consequences of the Civil War.
11/14	III. G.	The Post-Bellum South.
11/19-11/21	III. H.	Banks & Financial Markets.
11/26	III. I.	Trade & Commerce.
12/3	IV. A.	World War I.
12/5	IV. B.	The 1920s.
12/10	IV. C.	Interpreting the Great Depression and the New Deal.
12/12	IV. D.	World War II & After.