American Economic History

Course Website: portal.utoronto.ca
Lecture: T, 3:00-6:00pm, SS 1073

Course Information

Instructor: Shari Eli
Email: shari.eli@utoronto.ca
Teaching Assistant: Robert Jackman
Office Hours: Max Gluskin House #326, Thurs. 4:00 - 6:00pm
Office Hours Sign-up: https://www.timetrade.com/book/91BQK

Course Goals

We will survey American history from the ante-bellum period to the present. We will study both macro and micro topics. One goal of this class will be to learn about economic events, factors and arguments in order to explain current economic events through an historical lens. Another goal will be to use the tools of economics to analyze important research questions in economic history.

Prerequisites

One course from A, B and C:

A) Microeconomic Theory: (ECO200Y1/ECO204Y1/ECO206Y1)
B) Macroeconomic Theory and Policy: (ECO202Y1/ECO208Y1/ECO209Y1)
C) Quantitative Methods in Economics: (ECO220Y1/ECO227Y1)
    Statistics: (STA247H1,STA248H1)/(STA250H1,STA255H1)/(STA257H1,STA261H1)

Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Social Science course Breadth Requirement: Society and its Institutions (3)

For individual questions regarding prerequisites, please contact Professor Benjamin, Chair of Undergraduate Studies, at dwayne.benjamin@utoronto.ca.

Students with Disabilities

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like special accommodations/arrangements either in class or in the event that the building must be evacuated. For disability-related accommodations, please also see the following website: http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca.

Plagiarism

Don’t do it! Plagiarism, as defined by the Mirriam-Webster Dictionary, includes using someone else’s words, phrases, texts, or rewording someone else’s thoughts, without giving he/she due credit. The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be an F grade for the course. It is your responsibility to check the student guide to academic honesty at http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/.
Text

The textbook for this class is *A New Economic View of American History from Colonial Times to 1940* by Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell (2nd edition). The reading list below contains a collection of journal articles, scholarly book chapters and textbook chapters. (Active) links to each reading are included. Readings which appear with an asterisk (*) next to them are required reading for the course. *History of the American Economy* by Walton and Rockoff (11th edition) should be consulted for a background on some of the material covered in the course.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on points gained from homework assignments, class participation, and exams.

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Homework

There will be 5 homework assignments (6 pts each). Each homework assignment is due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HW #</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 9</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 23</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>November 20</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>November 27</td>
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Midterm and Final

The midterm will be held during class on October 30, 2012. The final exam will be during the final exam period (date to be announced). Both exams will consist of 4 equally-weighted essay questions. The best way to review for both exams is to review the homework questions.

Class Rules

All students must arrive on time. If you do not arrive on time, you may not be admitted to the class. The use of computers, iPhones, iPods, Blackberries, iPads, etc., are not allowed in class.

Reading List

Complete readings for each lecture by the lecture date.

Lecture 1. September 11 - Introduction

Lecture 2. September 18 - The Case for American Exceptionalism, Part I


**Lecture 3. September 25 - The Case for American Exceptionalism, Part II**


**Lecture 4. October 2 - Agriculture before the Civil War**


**Lecture 5. October 9 - Slavery and its Aftermath, Part I**


**Textbook chapter 10 - “Northern agricultural development before the civil war”**

**Textbook chapter 11 - “Slavery and southern development”**

**Textbook chapter 12 - “How the southern slave system worked”**
Lecture 6. October 16 - Slavery and its Aftermath, Part II


*Textbook chapter 14 - “The south after the civil war”


Lecture 7. October 23 - Health and Demographic Trends


*Textbook chapter 8 - ”Population growth and redistribution”


Lecture 8. October 30 - Midterm


Lecture 11. November 27 - The Great Depression, Part I


*Textbook chapter 18 - ”Structural change in America’s financial markets” *Textbook chapter 20 - ”America comes of age: 1914 - 29”

Lecture 12. December 4 - The Great Depression, Part II


*Textbook chapter 21 - ”The great depression: explaining the contraction”

*Textbook chapter 22 - ”The great depression, 1933 - 39: the recovery?”