

ECON 418-010 [#35789]  
Fall 2012 (12F)  
MWF 10:10-11:00am  
Sharp Lab 116

**TOPICS IN THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF  
AMERICAN LABOR MARKETS**

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**Required Reading**

- 1) Farley Grubb, Susan E. Klepp, and Anne Pfaelzer de Ortiz, eds., *Souls for Sale: Two German Redemptioners Come to Revolutionary America* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State Univ. Press, 2006).
- 2) Jenny Bourne Wahl, *The Bondsman's Burden* (New York; Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998).
- 3) Dora L. Costa and Matthew E. Kahn, *Heroes and Cowards: The Social Face of War* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008).
- 4) Price Fishback, *Soft Coal, Hard Choices* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1992).
- 5) Claudia Goldin, *Understanding the Gender Gap* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1990).
- 6) Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson, *Global Migration and the World Economy* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005).

Books are available from the book store or can be gotten cheap on Amazon.com used.

All other materials, if any, will be made available on the Econ 418 UD Sakai Web Site: <http://sakai.ud.edu/portal> .

**TOPICS**

- I. Weeks 1-4:** *Souls for Sale*. The Economics of Voluntary Contract Labor Migration  
Paper 1 due Wednesday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- II. Weeks 5-6:** *Bondsman's Burden*. The Law and Economics of Slave Labor  
Paper 2 due Wednesday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- III. Weeks 7-8:** *Heroes and Cowards*. The Economics of Labor at War  
Paper 3 due Wednesday Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.
- IV. Weeks 9-10:** *Soft Coal, Hard Choices*. The Organization of Work and Pay in an Industrial Setting  
Paper 4 due Wednesday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.
- V. Weeks 11-12:** *Understanding the Gender Gap*. The Economic History of Gender Discrimination  
Paper 5 due Wednesday Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- VI. Weeks 13-14:** *Global Migration and the World Economy*. Globalization and Labor Markets  
Paper 6 due Wednesday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Last Day of Class is Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*\*\*Final Exam: Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-12:30pm, in Sharp Lab 116.**

**Course Requirements**

- 1) Six critical essays (counting 60% of the course points) are required—one on each book. The essay topics will be assigned at the appropriate intervals throughout the course. See above for each paper's due date.
- 2) One comprehensive Final Exam (counting 40% of the course points) is required. The Final Exam will be Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-12:30pm, in 116 Sharp Lab. The exam will be short essay format and only cover lecture material from class.
- 3) Any paper turned in late will be assigned a zero score. Any assignment not turned in at all or honestly attempted and any exam not taken as scheduled (university approved excuses excepted) will result in a failing grade (F) for the course.
- 4) Electronic Devices. Electronic devices including cell phones, multi-function calculators, laptop computers, pagers, etc. are not allowed to be used by students during class or on non-take-home assignments and tests.

### Class/Lecture Structure

I will lecture on material related to the topic of the book for the first 4 to 5 class days for each section. The last 1 or 2 class days for each section will be devoted to class discussion of the book itself that was assigned for that section.

### Short Essays

Each essay is not to exceed six pages in length. These essays are not research papers. Do not search out other sources in the library. Focus only on the assigned readings and class discussions. Present a critical assessment of the assigned reading on a relatively narrow and specific issue found therein. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of one of the important arguments encountered, i.e. what makes an argument or point of view convincing or unconvincing. Concentrate on explaining how economic reasoning, models, and/or evidence are or could be used to weaken or strengthen the argument discussed. Elucidate in detail. Simply summarizing the material or writing a book report is not acceptable. In fact, avoid excessively over summarizing what you will be critically appraising. Get quickly to your own analytical contribution. You can assume that I have read the book.

### Format Requirements for All Papers

Papers must be typed, with the text double spaced in 12 pt font and any footnotes or references single spaced in 10pt font, with at least one-inch page margins on all sides. Citations must be used both for reference and content (you will need at least one citation—that is to the assigned reading that you are critically appraising), and a proper citation style must be used. Either MLA or APA citation style is acceptable. For more complicated issue of citation style, see the *Chicago Manual of Style* (current edition). If you don't know about citation styles, ask and/or check it out. Just don't make it up!! Do not include a separate title or cover page or a separate bibliography page that is different from what is needed for the citation format you use. Any paper that fails to adhere to these format requirements will be penalized (depending on the severity of format deviation) at my discretion with no appeals.

### Grading

All grading is based on a relative comparison of scores among members of this class. The top papers and exams in the class will be A's. The distribution of course grades will be similar to the average distribution for 400 level economics classes. A summary of my past grading habits in Econ 418 follows:

Semester	Percentage Grade Distribution					Number in the Class	
	A	B	C	D	F		
95J:	16.7	50.0	25.0	8.3	0.0	Summer	12
97J:	33.3	25.0	25.0	16.7	0.0	Summer	12
98J:	18.2	45.5	36.3	0.0	0.0	Summer	11
99J:	22.2	66.6	11.1	0.0	0.0	Summer	9
00J:	20.0	35.0	30.0	0.0	15.0	Summer	20
01J:	24.0	38.0	33.0	0.0	5.0	Summer	21
02J:	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Summer	6
03J:	33.3	33.3	22.2	0.0	11.1	Summer	9
05J:	20.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	Summer	5
08S:	60.0	30.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	Spring	10
09F:	35.5	50.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	Fall	8

The numbers do not include incompletes and withdrawals.