

Instructor: Rowena Gray

Website: <http://www.econ.ucdavis.edu/graduate/regray/>

Course Overview:

This short Summer course explores issues in United States history from an economic perspective. We will study the development of economic institutions, markets, and industries, as well as economic interpretations of historical phenomena such as the American Revolution, slavery and the Civil War. The main goals of this course are to 1) apply the analytical tools learned in previous economics classes to historical topics and 2) demonstrate the applicability of the study of history to the analysis of present-day economic events. The coverage runs from the pre-colonial era to the end of the Civil War.

Required Textbook:

Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy*, 8th edition or higher.

Course Grading:

Your grade for this class will be determined by the following formula:

Homework (total of 3, due dates below)	15%
Participation	5%
Midterm (Monday 17 th August)	40%
Final (Wednesday 9 th September)	40%

Homework:

The aim of the homework is to give you an idea of the type of questions that will be on the exams and to give you incentives to keep up to date with the readings, which are essential for success in the class. The class schedule below lists the dates when homeworks are due—they should be turned in by the end of lecture. Late homework will not be accepted so if you know that you will not be able to attend then put it in the teaching assistant's mailbox (in SSH 1111, beside the undergraduate office) **BEFORE** class. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. You must write your own homework—using study groups is a great idea but then write your homework individually.

Participation:

Your participation grade will be calculated based on your completion of 2-3 interactive in-lecture assignments, which I will explain on the first day of class.

Other sources of help/guidance:

This class will require more writing than the average economics class. If you need extra help with that component, check out the Learning Skills Center: <http://www.lsc.ucdavis.edu/>. Finally, here are some interesting and potentially useful links which you may care to investigate if you are particularly interested in one of the topics covered. They may also be useful for students considering doing an honors thesis:

- Economic History Online: <http://eh.net/>. This site has an encyclopedia where you can find more information on the topics covered in this class.
- Historical Statistics of the United States: you can access this for free through the UC Davis Library website, under "Databases A-Z".

Class Outline (Tentative- some readings may spill over more than one lecture):

The following is a companion guide listing what you should be reading before/after each lecture. Whether or not you keep up with the reading is up to you, but each test will cover all material from the allotted readings, unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Date	Readings	Special Notes
Aug 3	Optional Reading: Robert Whaples "Where Is There Consensus Among American Economic Historians? The Results of a Survey on Forty Propositions" <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , Vol. 55, No. 1 (Mar., 1995), pp. 139-54.	
Aug 4	Life in the Colonies—Description and Analysis & Immigration to the New World: WR chapters 2 & 3	
Aug 5	Immigration to the New World Continued: David W. Galenson, "The Rise and Fall of Indentured Servitude in the Americas: An Economic Analysis" <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , Vol. 44, no. 1 (March 1984), pp. 1-26.	
Aug 10	Social Mobility Among Immigrants, 1820-1860: Joseph Ferrie, "We are Yankeys Now: The Economic Mobility of Two Thousand Antebellum Immigrants to the United States" <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , Vol. 53, No. 2 (1993), pp. 388-391.	HW 1 Due: Immigration Topic
Aug 11	Consequences of England as colonial power: WR chapters 4 & 6 1 page summary on effects of Navigation Acts, posted on Smartsite	
Aug 12	Long-run Determinants of Economic Growth:	Review for

	<p>Kenneth L. Sokoloff and Stanley L. Engerman, "History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World", <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>, Vol. 14, No. 3 (Summer, 2000), pp. 217-32.</p> <p>Daron Acemoglu, "Root Causes: A Historical Approach to Assessing the Role of Institutions in Economic Development" <i>Finance and Development</i>, June 2003.</p>	Midterm (Time Permitting)
Aug 17		Midterm Exam
Aug 18	The pattern of growth 1700-1860 & Westward Expansion: WR chapters 5 (pages 87-88, 99-102), and 8 (to page 153).	
Aug 19	<p>The development of Manufacturing: WR chapters 7 (pages 125-6 & 130-138) and 10.</p> <p>Claudia Goldin and Kenneth Sokoloff, "Women, Children, and Industrialization in the Early Republic: Evidence from the Manufacturing Censuses" <i>Journal of Economic History</i>, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Dec., 1982), pp. 741-774.</p>	
Aug 24	The banking system and early financial crisis: WR chapter 12 (to page 236).	
Aug 25	<p>Inequality in Colonial and Antebellum America: WR chapter 5, pp. 101-4; chapter 11, pp. 211-215.</p> <p>Lee Soltow, "Economic Inequality in the United States in the Period from 1790 to 1860" <i>Journal of Economic History</i>, Vol. 31, No. 4 (1971)—to page 831.</p> <p>Lindert and Williamson article (a 3 page summary of their work). Peter H. Lindert and Jeffrey G. Williamson, <i>American Inequality: a Macroeconomic History</i> (New York, 1980), chapters 3 and 4.</p>	HW 2 Due: Economic Growth
Aug 26	<p>The Antebellum Puzzle: Michael R. Haines, Lee A. Craig and Thomas Weiss, "The Short and the Dead: Nutrition, Mortality, and the 'Antebellum Puzzle' in the United States" <i>Journal of Economic History</i>, Vol. 63, No. 2 (2003).</p>	
Aug 31	<p>Slavery: WR chapter 8 (page 153 on) & chapter 13.</p>	
Sep 1	<p>Slavery Continued: Roger Ransom and Richard Sutch "Capitalists without Capital: The Burden of Slavery and the Impact of Emancipation" <i>Agricultural History</i>, Vol. 62, No. 3 (1988), pp. 133-160.</p>	
Sep 2	The American Civil War—Causes and Consequences: WR chapter 14.	HW 3 Due: Banking System Review final exam format
Sep 8		Review Session
Sep 9		Final Exam