This course will organized around a variety of topics in economic history, such as demography, labor, the Great Depression and New Deal, institutions, slavery, banking and finance, agriculture, manufacturing, trade, transportation, communications, commerce. Other topics are possible with permission. The requirements of the course will include a substantial research project (50% of final grade), a class presentation (40% of final grade), and class participation (10% of final grade). The project will be on a subject of your choice but related to the topics of the course. The project will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The expectation is that the project will be statistically oriented, using a data set provided by the instructor or collected by the student. Exceptions are possible with the permission of the instructor. The project will be due during the last class of the course. The project is to be prepared in accordance with a style sheet and guidelines handed out in class. The instructor reserves the right to reject any project not prepared in accordance with the style sheet. Failure to complete any part of the assigned work will result in an automatic grade of “F”. The classes will meet on Monday, 7-9:30 PM in Persson Room 226 and Tuesday 7-9:30 PM in Persson Room 210. Regular seminar attendance is required. Attendance will be taken. There will be no unexcused absences. Unexcused absences will be penalized by one third of a grade for each instance. The instructor reserves the right to schedule a final examination in the event that he deems it necessary. In that case the final grade will be based on the following weights: project (35%), final examination (25%), class presentation (35%), class participation (10%). 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 and the Colgate University Honor Code. The policies are described in detail in the Student Handbook.


The bibliography listed below is only suggested. You should research the topic
yourself. The bibliographies at the end of the relevant chapters of our two text books provide excellent starting points. Use the reference style in the course style guide. It is expected the bibliography used for the presentation will be presented.

I. MONEY, BANKING, INVESTMENT, AND FINANCIAL MARKETS.


(2) THE COLONIAL ERA & THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Readings: WR, ch. 4.


Financial Speculation (NY: Plume, 1999).


II. THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL, 1929-1941.

A. Antecedents: World War I and the 1920's.


B. The Great Depression.


B. THE NEW DEAL.


III. AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS, MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS

B. THE CENSUS, POPULATION, AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.


C. THE COLONIAL ECONOMY.

Required readings: WR, chs. 3-6. AP, chs. 2-3.

D. AGRICULTURE, 1790-1860.


1. THE INTERREGIONAL TRADE HYPOTHESIS.


3. ANTEBELLUM SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE.

Required readings: WR, ch 13. AP, chs. 11-12.


E. MANUFACTURING, 1790-1990.


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H. ENTREPRENEURS.


I. THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.


J. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS:


IV. HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY.


A. COLONIAL DEMOGRAPHY.


B. THE UNITED STATES, 1790-1990.


2. FERTILITY.


4. HEALTH, MORTALITY, STANDARDS OF LIVING.

(a). McKEOWN AND HIS CRITICS. Suggested readings: Thomas McKeown, *The Modern


6. MIGRATION AND MOBILITY.


V. AMERICAN LABOR HISTORY.


B. The Ante-Bellum Period.


C. Industrial America.


VI. INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT, & POLITICAL ECONOMY.

VII. CAPITAL MARKETS & THE FOREIGN SECTOR.


VIII. POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND SOCIAL POLICY.