

**Econ 5470/6470: Industrialization and Economic Development: The American Case**

Spring 2009

MBH 302

T Th 12:25 – 1:45

Prerequisites: Econ 2010 and 2020

Fulfills upper division writing (CW) requirement.

Fulfills history focus area requirement for Econ majors.

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In this class, we will study growth and change in the US economy from the colonial period to the present. While this course is to a great degree a "survey," or a broad overview, of these issues, we will give particular emphasis to the study of labor markets, demography, the standard of living, and economic inequality.

The core of the lecture material will be organized around our **primary text, Atack and Passell, A New Economic View of American History**. We will read and discuss most of this book. We will also read **Levy, The New Dollars and Dreams (Sage, 1998)**. We will discuss the Levy book during the last two weeks of class. Both of these books are available in the bookstore. In addition, we will read several journal articles and book chapters, which will be available through the course WebCT page. Because I will also present a considerable amount of material that is not specifically available in any of these sources, it is important to attend class regularly and to take good notes.

Objectives:

By the end of the semester, a student who is successful in this course will

- (1) Have a detailed understanding of the evolution of the US economic from colonial times to the present in terms of industrial composition, growth rates, methods of production, and living standards,
- (2) Become familiar with important measures of economic performance (output measures, income measures, inequality measures, etc.) and sources of these measures,
- (3) Gain insight into how economists use models to understand changes in the economy,
- (4) Be able to interpret current economic issues (immigration, discrimination, inequality, the current economic crisis) in the context of related historical phenomena,
- (5) Be better able to write about and discuss economic content in a way that is engaging and persuasive.

Research and Writing Assignments:

This is a communication/writing (CW) course, so we will do a good deal of writing, revising, and discussing throughout the semester. For our major writing assignments, each student will choose an area of economic policy that is of interest to them, study the economic history that is relevant for understanding this topic, produce a "critical review" of one existing piece of research on this topic, and produce a "policy paper" connecting the economic history of their topic to current policy questions. Both of these major assignments (the critical review and the policy paper) involve several steps:

For the critical review assignment, students will

- Turn in a proposal for the critical review, including (1) identification of a general area of interest that will be pursued in both the critical review and the policy paper, and (2) full citation of one particular piece (a journal article or book chapter) for which the student will turn in a critical review of about 5 to 7 pages. This citation should include a brief (three or four sentence) description of the contents of the piece (topic and cite due **Thursday 2/5**)
- Write a rough draft of the critical review, participate in a “peer evaluation” of these drafts, and revise the draft based on this peer evaluation (peer evaluation in class on **Thursday 2/19**),
- Turn in final drafts of these reviews, including a copy of the peer evaluation of your draft, along with a brief statement indicating how you have revised your critical review in response to this evaluation (due **Thursday 2/26**). You must also submit your final draft electronically to our class file at Turnitin.com.

For the policy paper assignment, students will

- Turn in a written proposal for a 10 to 15 page paper, including (1) identification of a narrow policy issue to be pursued in the paper, and (2) a list of likely sources, including a full citation and brief description of the contents of each source and its likely usefulness for the final paper (proposal due **Tuesday 3/10**)
- Turn in a rough draft of the research paper and participate in a “peer evaluation” of these drafts (in class on **Tuesday 4/7**).
- Turn in the final draft of the final paper, including a brief statement indicating how you have revised your paper in response to comments from the instructor (final draft due **Thursday 4/23**). You must also submit your final draft electronically to our class file at Turnitin.com.

More detail on this set of assignments will be given in class. Announcements, due dates, and other information will occasionally be posted on the course WebCT page.

#### **Econ 3905-001 ("Modes of Learning"):**

Econ 3905 is a one-credit course which provides additional instruction in writing research papers and essays in economics. It is **not** necessary to register for Econ 3905 to fulfill the CW requirement (successful completion of Econ 5470 fulfills the requirement). Nonetheless, some students will find enrolling in Econ 3905 useful, both because it will provide an additional hour of credit and because it will give you access to resources which will help you improve your writing and thereby improve your grade in Econ 5470 (and in other classes).

#### **Econ 6470-001(Graduate Section):**

Students planning to use this course for graduate credit must register for Econ 6470 (rather than Econ 5470). Also, you must see me early in the semester to discuss additional work that will be required for graduate credit.

#### **Grading:**

##### 1. Exams:

There will be two mid-term exams and a final. All will be a mix of short answer and essay questions. (Essays will count for about 2/3 of the points on each exam.) The final will include some comprehensive material but will emphasize material from the final third of the semester. Exams will be based on the reading and our discussion in class. The first mid-term is worth 15% of your final grade. The second mid-term and the final are each worth 20% of your grade. **The first mid-term will be held on Thursday, February 12. The second mid-term will be held on Tuesday, March 31. The final will be held on Thursday, 5/7, from 10:30 to 12:30 am. You are responsible for**

**clearing your schedule so that you will be present for the exams. In very rare cases of unavoidable scheduling conflict, accommodations may be made. However, you must notify me of any such conflicts prior to the exam.**

2. Writing assignments:

As described above, there are two major writing assignments - a 5-7 page critical review, which is worth 15 percent of your grade, and a final 10-15 page paper, which is worth 20 percent of your grade. In addition, you will turn in a general topic area and a full citation for the piece that you will critically review, a rough draft of your critical review, a research paper proposal, and a rough draft of your research paper. 5 percent of your grade will be based on your turning in these intermediate assignments on time and participating in the discussion of all of these assignments. **YOU MUST BRING TWO COPIES OF THE CRITICAL REVIEW ROUGH DRAFT ON 2/19 AND TWO COPIES OF THE FINAL PAPER ROUGH DRAFT ON 4/7.**

3. Class participation:

Each student will help lead the discussion of one of the “additional readings” (readings other than Attack and Passell and Levy), all of which will be available through the course WebCT page. On the day that we are to discuss one of these readings, students who are well-prepared to discuss that reading should sign up on the “class participation” sheet at the beginning of class. By doing so, these students will indicate that they are ready to be called on to provide fairly specific commentary on these readings. You do not need to prepare any written comments. I will generally circulate (via WebCT) some questions to help focus your thoughts a day or two before we discuss each reading. Since the dates for discussing these readings are currently tentative, I will provide advance notice throughout the semester reminding you of when you can earn your class participation points by leading discussion of a reading. I may add more of these readings during the semester, depending on our pace of progress and student interest. This assignment is worth 5 percent of your grade.

So the composition of your final grade looks like this:

- Research paper: 20%
- Critical review: 15%
- Other components of the writing assignment (proposals, drafts, peer reviews, etc.): 5%
- First mid-term: 15%
- Second mid-term: 20%
- Final exam: 20%
- “Class Participation”: 5%

My grade scale is as follows (note I do not curve and I do not offer extra credit):

Grade	Percentage Score
A	92.00 and above
A-	90.00 to 91.99
B+	88.00 to 89.99
B	82.00 to 87.99
B-	80.00 to 81.99
C+	75.00 to 79.99
C	70.00 to 74.99
C-	65.00 to 69.99
D+	63.00 to 64.99
D	67.00 to 62.99
D-	65.00 to 66.99
E	Below 65

The University of Utah Department of Economics seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodation in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services (<http://disability.utah.edu/>, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020) to make arrangements for accommodations.

**Schedule of Due Dates and Exams:**

**Th 2/5: General Research Topic Area and Complete Article Citation for Critical Review Due**

**Th 2/12: First Mid-Term Exam**

**Th 2/19: Draft of Critical Review Due, and In-Class Peer Review of Drafts**

**Th 2/26: Final Version of Critical Review Due**

**T 3/10: Policy Paper Proposal Due**

**T 3/31: Second Mid-Term Exam**

**T 4/7: Draft of Policy Paper Due, and In-Class Peer Review of Drafts**

**Th 4/23: Final Version of Policy Paper Due**

**Th 5/7: FINAL EXAM, 10:30-12:30 AM, MBH 302**

**Faculty and Student Rights and Responsibilities:**

My commitment to you is that we will meet as scheduled, start on time, cover the material described above, and carry out the exams and other assignments on the scheduled dates (barring unforeseeable complications such as illness, closure of the campus, etc.). I will also enforce the student code to ensure fairness in evaluating your work (particularly with regard to the originality of your writing assignments). Your responsibilities include attending class regularly, showing up on time and remaining until the end, and helping to create a respectful atmosphere conducive to learning. Please contact me as soon as possible regarding any confusion you have with regard to the course, the schedule, the assignments, etc. Have a great semester!

Approximate Schedule of Topics

The dates for specific readings and topics may change, but exam dates and due dates for assignments will not change.

T 1/13 to T 1/20:

Introduction

Overview of Technological Change and Growth in Great Britain and the US

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Introduction and Chapter 1

Sokoloff and Engerman, "History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World," Journal of Economic Perspectives 14:3 (Summer 2000).

T 1/20 to T 1/27:

Colonial Economic History

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 2

**Note – we will also discuss finding sources, citation requirements and format, etc. on Tuesday, January 27. Details to come.**

Th 1/29 to T 2/3:

Early Industrialization in the US

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 7

Sokoloff, "Inventive Activity in Early Industrial America: Evidence from Patent Records, 1790-1846," Journal of Economic History December 1988 (48:4), p. 813-850.

Th 2/5 to T 2/17:

Demography and US Economic History, Part I: Fertility, Mortality, and Health

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, chapter 8, p. 212-228

Steckel, "Stature and the Standard of Living," Journal of Economic Literature December 1995 (33:4), p. 1903-1940.

**Note - General research topic area and complete article citation for critical review due 2/5.**

**Note - First mid-term exam Thursday, 2/12.**

T 2/17 to T 2/24:

Demography and US Economic History, Part II: Immigration

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, chapter 8, p. 229-245

Hirschman, "Immigration and the American Century," Demography November 2005 (42:2), p. 595-620.

**Note – 2/19 - Draft of critical review due, and in-class peer-review of drafts.**

Th 2/26 to Th 3/5:

Slavery, the Civil War, and the South

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, chapters 11, 12, and 14

Hanes, "Turnover Cost and the Distribution of Slave Labor in Anglo-America," Journal of Economic History 56:2 (June 1996).

**Note - Final version of critical review due 2/26.**

T 3/10:

19<sup>th</sup> Century Wealth Inequality

**Note - Policy paper proposal due 3/10.**

Th 3/12:

19<sup>th</sup> Century Capital Accumulation and Change in Industrial Structure

READINGS:

Atack and Passell chapter 17

McCurdy, "American Law and the Marketing Structure of the Large Corporation, 1875-1890," Journal of Economic History 38:3 (September 1978).

*Note: No Class T 3/17 or Th 3/19 (Spring Break)*

T 3/24 to Th 3/26:

Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Labor Markets

READINGS:

Atack and Passell chapter 19

Hacker and Jacobs, "The Rising Instability of American Family Incomes, 1969-2004: Evidence from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics," EPI Briefing Paper 213, May 29, 2008.

**Note - Second mid-term exam Tuesday 3/31.**

Th 4/2

Female Labor in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

T 4/7:

African American Labor in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

READINGS:

Maloney, "African Americans in the Twentieth Century," in Whaples, ed., EH.Net Encyclopedia, January 2002.

**Note – 4/7 - Draft of policy paper due, and in-class peer-review of drafts.**

Th 4/9 and T 4/14:

The Great Depression and The New Deal

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 21 to 22

Olney, "Avoiding Default: The Role of Credit in the Consumption Collapse of 1930,"

Quarterly Journal of Economics February 1999 (114:1), p. 319-335.

Th 4/16:

The Rise of the Public Sector

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 23

T 4/21 to T 4/28:

Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Performance of the US Economy

READINGS:

Gordon, "Two Centuries of Economic Growth: Europe Chasing the American Frontier,"

NBER Working Paper No. 10662, August 2004.

Levy, The New Dollars and Dreams

**Note - Final version of policy paper due Thursday 4/23.**

**Note – Th 5/7 - Final exam, 10:30-12:30 AM, MBH 302.**