Economics 373: U.S. Economic History

Professor: Jared Rubin
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Website: http://www.jaredcrubin.com/
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4pm, or by appointment

Required Text:

We will also read academic articles. You can download these articles on JSTOR.org or Google Scholar using any computer hooked into the Chapman network or through the Chapman library website.

Course Requirements
The course will consist of one mid-term examination, a final examination, and one term paper. There will be no make-up examinations. If a mid-term is missed, the final will carry the additional weight if and only if a valid excuse (e.g., doctor’s note) is presented.

The term paper is due in class on the date listed below. I will accept papers without penalty up through the end of the class period. Any papers turned in after this time will be accepted, but will carry a penalty of 10 points per day (unless, of course, you have a valid, documented excuse).

Course Goals
This course is aimed at facilitating critical thinking. This class will provide: 1) a general overview of important events and periods in the economic history of the U.S.; 2) an analysis of important historical events from an economic viewpoint. The term paper should include both of these elements, especially the latter.

Chapman Policy on Academic Integrity
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are
responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

**Chapman Policy on Students with Disabilities**
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. You also may contact the Office of Disability Services at [www.chapman.edu/disabilities](http://www.chapman.edu/disabilities). The University, through the Disability Services Office, will work with the faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Important Addresses and Telephone Numbers**
- Disabilities Services: 410 N. Glassell
  Phone: (714) 997-6778
- Tutoring, Learning, and Testing Center: Cecil B. DeMille Hall 130
  Phone: (714) 997-6828

**Program Learning Outcomes**
- Knowledge of Economics: Each student will demonstrate knowledge of modern microeconomic and macroeconomic theories and apply these theories to analyze economic policies and problems.
- Problem Solving Skill: Each student will possess the quantitative and technical skills to analyze data and interpret results to improve economic performance.
- Communication: Each student will be able to communicate clearly, concisely and professionally.
- Global Professional: Each student will demonstrate awareness of ethical, cultural and professional perspectives of the global economic environment.

**Withdrawal and Drop Policy**
See your Chapman University Catalogue. The last day to add courses is Friday, February 13. The last day to drop courses without record of enrollment is Friday, February 13. The last day to withdraw from courses is Friday, April 17.
Grading
There are 100 possible points. The grading breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Précis for Paper</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25</td>
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There will be no make-up exams, and no early or late sittings for exams. I will grade on a ten-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 70</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Paper
Assignment: To investigate some event in U.S. economic history from colonial times through 1970. The topic of your term paper can cover any period or event in U.S. economic history. It should be 7-10 pages long and include a data analysis. You will be required to stop by my office at least two weeks prior to the due date to discuss your paper topic. This office visit will count towards your class participation grade. You may use papers or books read in this class as sources, but you must cite at least five outside sources. Points will be deducted if it is shorter than seven pages.

Data Précis: Approximately one month before the paper is due, you will have to turn in a data précis describing the data that you plan to use for your paper. The précis should be about 2 pages long and should explain i) your data source, and ii) why these data support your analysis. A preliminary graph and table is also required in the précis. The précis will be graded and will make up 10% of your overall grade.

Expectations: The purpose of this exercise is to apply economic logic to some event in U.S. economic history. An economic analysis is mandatory – a mere description of events will not suffice. Your paper should search for a causal link between two or more phenomena. That is, you should construct a well-structured economic hypothesis and argue its merits using historical information and data.
Course Outline
This is a very tentative schedule and is subject to change at any time. All due dates and examination dates will not be changed, however.

(AP): Atack and Passell text
**: Optional Readings

Overview – What is Economic History? (Feb. 3, 5, 10)
AP: Introduction, Ch. 1
**McCloskey, Donald N., "Does the Past Have Useful Economics?," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1976.

The Colonial Economy and the Revolution (Feb. 12, 17)
AP: Ch. 2, 3

The Nineteenth-Century Transportation Boom (Feb. 19, 24)
AP: Ch. 6, 16

Slavery (Feb. 26; March 3, 5)
AP: Ch. 11, 12
Nineteenth-Century U.S. Industrialization (March 10, 12, 17)
AP: Ch. 7, 17

MIDTERM EXAMINATION: MARCH 19

SPRING BREAK (March 24, 26)

Immigration (March 31, April 2)
Exam Results; discussion of expectations for précis
AP: Ch. 8

Labor (April 7, 9)
AP: Ch. 19

DATA PRÉCIS DUE: APRIL 7

The Changing Economic Role of Women and Children (April 14)
World War I and the Roaring Twenties (April 16)
AP: Ch. 20

The Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II (April 21, 23, 28, 30)
AP: Ch. 21, 22

Term Paper Due: April 30 (in class)

The Growth of the Federal Government (May 5, 7)
AP: Ch 23
Lindert, Peter, "What Limits Social Spending?," *Explorations in Economic History*, 1996.

In-class review (May. 12, 14)

**FINAL EXAMINATION:
FRIDAY, MAY 22 AT 1:30 PM**