ECONOMICS 116
AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

This course covers the economic history of the United States from colonial times to the present. Economics 1 is a firm prerequisite. Lectures are TTh 9-10:50am; sections meet each week, Thursday evening or Friday.

A course reader is available containing most articles required (*) for the course. Purchase online at https://students.universityreaders.com/store/. (You will have the option of selecting a printed copy, a digital copy, or both.) Students are also responsible for materials posted on Course Work.

The first assignment will be an exercise with historical data, due on Friday April 24th. Also required is a 10-15 page research paper, which may build on the earlier data exercise if you so choose. The paper itself is due Friday, May 29th. There will be an in-class midterm exam Thursday, May 7th. The final is June 5th (12:15).

Exam dates and assignment deadlines are not flexible. The only exceptions are for the death of a family member or for illness requiring the immediate attention of a physician. Non-Stanford activities away from campus are not valid reasons for an exception. Students who may need an academic accommodation based on a disability must initiate the request through the Office of Accessible Education (OAE), 563 Salvatierra Walk (723-1066), URL: http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae. Contact with the OAE should be as soon as possible.

TOPICS AND READINGS

1. Overview: The Historical Approach to Economics (March 31-April 2)
   *Gavin Wright, “Quantitative Economic History in the United States” (photocopy)

2. From Colonial Economy to Independence (April 7-9)

3. Transportation Revolution and Market Revolution (April 14-16)
   *Daniel B. Klein, "The Voluntary Provision of Public Goods?" Turnpike Companies of Early America," Economic Inquiry (October 1990)
   *Albert Fishlow, "The Dynamics of Railroad Extension to the West," in Fogel and Engerman (eds.), The Reinterpretation of American Economic History

4. Slavery and the Southern Economy (April 21-23)
   *Gavin Wright, “Slavery and American Agricultural History,” Agricultural History 77 (Fall 2003)
5. The Rise of American Industry to World Pre-Eminence (April 28-May 5)

MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, May 7th

6. The "New Economy" of the 1920s the Great Depression, and the New Deal (May 12-14)
  *Chiaki Moriguchi, "Implicit Contracts, the Great Depression, and Institutional Change," *Journal of Economic History* 63 (September 2003)

8. The Golden Age of American Capitalism (May 19-21)
  *Stacey Jones, "From 'Coeds' to Careers: Dynamic Social Norms and the Unexpected Transformation of Women's Higher Education," *Social Science History* (2009)

  *Nick Bloom, Raffaella Sadun and John Van Reenen, "It Ain't What You Do It's How You Do I.T."

10. Review (June 4)

FINAL EXAM June 5 (12:15pm-3:15pm)