American Economic History

Course Website: Quercus
Lecture: Thurs. 12:00-3:00pm, SS 1084

Course Information

Instructor: Shari Eli
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Twitter: @ShariJELi
Teaching Assistants: Boriana Miloucheva and Steve Ryan
Office Hours: Max Gluskin House #326, Tue. 3:00pm to 5:00pm except Nov. 6

Course Goals

We will survey American history from the ante-bellum period to the present. We will study both macro and micro topics. One goal of this class will be to learn about economic events, factors and arguments in order to explain current economic events through an historical lens. Another goal will be to use the tools of economics to analyze important research questions in economic history.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites are strictly enforced by the economics department. If you do not have the prerequisites a department administrator will remove you from the course at any time without warning. Course instructors/I cannot waive prerequisites.

For individual questions regarding prerequisites, please contact Professor Gillian Hamilton, Chair of Undergraduate Studies, at gillian.hamilton@utoronto.ca.

Students with Disabilities

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like special accommodations/arrangements either in class or in the event that the building must be evacuated. For disability-related accommodations, please also see the following website: http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca.

Plagiarism

Don’t do it! Plagiarism, as defined by the Mirriam-Webster Dictionary, includes using someone else’s words, phrases, texts, or rewording someone else’s thoughts, without giving he/she due credit. The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be an F grade for the course. It is your responsibility to check the student guide to academic honesty at http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/.

Text

The textbook for this class is A New Economic View of American History from Colonial Times to 1940 by Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell (2nd edition). Assigned chapters are available at portal.utoronto.ca. The reading list below contains a collection of journal articles, scholarly book chapters and textbook chapters. (Active) links to each reading are included. Readings which appear with an asterisk (*) next to them are required reading for the course. History of the American Economy by Walton and Rockoff (11th edition) should be consulted for a background on some of the material covered in the course.
Grading

Grades will be calculated based on points gained from homework assignments and exams.

Policy for Missed Exams

If an exam is missed due to a medical reason, the student must submit a Verification of Student Illness or Injury form found here: http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php Only an original form, not scans, e-mails or copies, will be accepted. The form must be completed by a qualified medical doctor (or nurse practitioner) and the doctor’s OHIP registration number must be provided.

If the medical note or other cause for missing an exam is accepted as a suitable reason, the student will be eligible to take a make-up test, which will consist of the following: 1) 5-page essay worth 10 points, completion of a take-home make-up test worth 10 points, and one-quarter of the final exam grade (worth 10 points). If the student does not complete part 1 and 2 of the make-up test within by November 8, 2018, there will be no “make-up make-up,” and the student will receive a zero for the exam.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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Homework

There will be 3 homework assignments (10 pts each). Each homework assignment is due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HW #</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>September 27, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>October 18, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>November 22, 2018</td>
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Midterm and Final

The midterm will be held during class on November 1, 2018. The final exam will be during the final exam period (date to be announced).

Reading List

Lecture 1. September 6 - Introduction

Lecture 2. September 13 - The Case for American Exceptionalism, Part I


Lecture 3. September 20 - The Case for American Exceptionalism, Part II


Lecture 4. September 27 - Agriculture before the Civil War


*Textbook chapter 10 - “Northern agricultural development before the civil war”

*Textbook chapter 11 - “Slavery and southern development”

Lecture 5. October 4 - Slavery and its Aftermath, Part I


*Textbook chapter 12 - “How the southern slave system worked”

Lecture 6. October 11 - Slavery and its Aftermath, Part II


*Textbook chapter 14 - “The south after the civil war”

Suresh Naidu (2010). “Suffrage, Schooling and Sorting in the Post-Bellum U.S. South”

Lecture 7. October 18 - Health and Demographic Trends


http://www.jstor.org/stable/1515174

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3840337

*Textbook chapter 8 - “Population growth and redistribution”

http://www.nber.org/papers/w11963


http://www.jstor.org/stable/2123435


http://www.jstor.org/stable/2123439

*Textbook chapter 19 - “The market for labor in historical perspective”

Lecture 9. November 1 - Midterm


http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.84.1403&rep=rep1&type=pdf


Lecture 11. November 22 - The Great Depression, Part I


*Textbook chapter 18 - “Structural change in America’s financial markets”

Textbook chapter 20 - “America comes of age: 1914 - 29”

Lecture 12. November 29 - The Great Depression, Part II


*Textbook chapter 21 - “The great depression: explaining the contraction”

*Textbook chapter 22 - “The great depression, 1933 - 39: the recovery?”