

ECONOMICS 3420
Fall 2018
U.S. Economic History
T/TH 9:30am-10:45am

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis

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Office phone: 678-839-4777

Office hours: T/TH 8:45am-9:25am, 10:50am – 2:00pm and by appointment

Office: Miller Hall 1310

REQUIRED TEXT:

Atack, Jeremy and Peter Passell, *A New Economic View of American History from Colonial Times to 1940*, 2nd edition, 1994.

EXPECTED LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course will focus on the growth and development of the U.S. Economy from the colonial era through the Great Depression and the New Deal. To this end, students are expected to achieve the following learning objectives:

- Students will learn how to use economic theory to analyze historical trends and events such as industrialization and the Great Depression (LG4, LG7, LG8)
- Students will gain an appreciation of how economic history can help us understand current economic problems (LG4, LG7, LG8)
- The student's communication, research and computer skills will be improved through in-class discussion, writing assignments and an individual presentation (LG1, LG3)

Note: The Economics Department's website has a complete list of the [Economics Department's Learning Goals](#).

SEATING ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be asked to fill out a seating chart on the third day of class (August 22) based on the seat that they have chosen for that day. Students will be asked to sit in the same seat every class period following.

ASSESSMENT:

You will be graded based on your performance on three exams, class participation, reading reaction papers, and a paper and presentation as described below. Extra credit is not an option in this course.

Exams (60% of final grade) – There will be three exams. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answer problems, and essays. The questions will be based on reading assignments (both the textbook and any assigned articles), lectures, homework, and

class discussions. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade. **You are responsible for bringing a No. 2 pencil for each exam.**

Examination Schedule:

Exam #1 – September 13

Exam #2 – October 18

Exam #3 – November 29

Class Participation and Reading Check Assignments (20% of final grade) – Completing all assigned reading before class is extremely important for this course. Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions. It is also expected that students will arrive on time and not leave early. Various types of assignments will be used to evaluate students' preparedness for class including pop quizzes, in-class activities, and homework assignments. Class participation and Reading Check Assignments will be worth 20% of your grade. The two lowest reading check assignment scores will be dropped when calculating your final grade.

U.S. Economic History Issue Paper and Presentation (20% of final grade) – Each student will select an economic history issue or event to research and analyze. Students are required to read three articles from professional economic journals on their topic (articles we already read for class cannot be used as one of the required articles for your paper). The paper should contain a brief description of the economic issue or event being analyzed, a summary of each article discussing the research question, data sources and conclusions, and a discussion of how these articles add to our understanding of the event or topic. Your topic and an annotated bibliography (with one paragraph summary of each of the three required articles) are due on October 11. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length (typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font) and is due on November 15. The paper is worth 10% of your final grade and will not be accepted late. The paper must be original for this class – a paper written for another class is not acceptable.

At the end of the semester, students will present their research to the class. The 8-10 minute presentation should describe the issue or event being analyzed, share the research from the three articles and describe how this research adds to our understanding of the historical issue or event. The dates for class presentations will be December 4 and 6 during class and if needed December 13, which is the final exam period (8:00-10:00am). Each student will be assigned a specific presentation date. The presentation will be worth 10% of your grade.

All students are expected to attend all the presentations days. An unexcused absence from a presentation day will result in an automatic 10 point reduction in your paper and presentation grade.

Makeup Exams – Students who miss an exam or presentation will only be allowed to makeup the missed exam or presentation in the case of a **DOCUMENTED medical emergency**. All makeup exams will be given on a Friday morning. Students should contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the assignment to make arrangements for a makeup exam or presentation. **Students who do not contact the professor within one week of missing an exam or presentation will not be allowed to makeup the assignment.**

GRADING SCALE:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

WOLF PACT

The Wolf Pact is a commitment by the Richards College of Business family to honesty, integrity, professionalism, accountability for ethical behavior, and to respect for the rights, differences, and dignity of others.

We are committed to a culture of academic integrity, where members adhere to our shared values in all academic and non-academic endeavors.

We believe these values are essential to student development; whether personal, academic, or professional. Most importantly- establishing yourself as an honest person of integrity, who acts in a professional and ethical manner- will be as important as the academic skills you learn in the Richards College of Business.

ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES

Any quiz or exam, given online or in class, is an individual assignment where collaboration is not allowed. All written assignments should be written in the student's own words and all sources should be cited. Using another person's words or ideas without citing them is plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please review the information about [plagiarism](#) from the UWG Writing Center.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

In the event that classes canceled, please check the CourseDen class homepage for assignments and course announcements. If classes are cancelled on the day of an exam or that the current economic conditions assignment is due, the exam will be given or the assignment will be due on the first class meeting following the cancellation.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION:

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use CourseDen for general class announcements.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please carefully review the information at the [UWG Student Information Link](#). The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

COURSE TOPICS:

Why Study Economic History?

The Colonial Economy

Causes of the American Revolution

The Revolutionary War, Independence, and the Constitution

Money and Banking before the Civil War

The Antebellum Transportation Revolution

Early Industrialization in the U.S.

The South before the Civil War - The Economics of Slavery

The Economic Impact of the Civil War

The Post Civil War South – Reconstruction and Debt Peonage

Post-Civil-War Banking

Railroads and Economic Growth

The Development of the American Labor Market

Structural Changes in the Post Civil War Financial Markets

The Great Depression and the New Deal

Additional topics may be added if time allows.

The specific Reading Assignments for each class will be announced in class and posted in CourseDen.

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary.