

## **ECON 334 History of the American Economy**

### Wintermester 2019

#### **Number of Credits**

3

#### **Instructor**

Bob Dick, PhD

#### **Catalog Description**

Origin and development of economic institutions including industry, agriculture, commerce, transportation, labor, and finance. Analysis of the economic progress of the U.S.

Prerequisite(s): ENG 102, CH 201 or CH 202 or CH 203 or CH 212; ECON 102; ECON 103 or HON 220; Junior or Senior standing.

#### **Required Textbooks/Materials**

The following texts are required material in this course:

*An Empire of Wealth*, (2004) John Steele Gordon, Harper

*Land of Promise*, (2013) Michael Lind, Harper

*The Making of Modern America*, 3rd ed., Gary Donaldson, Rowan and Littlefield

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- describe the development of U.S. economy from colonial era to present;
- apply principles of economics to aspects of historical economic development and business changes;
- analyze changes over the past two centuries in the nature of business organization and origins of economic institutions such as financial markets, corporate management, and the role of government;
- describe the role of non-Western and minority groups in economic history;
- describe the effect of economic and technological changes on non-Western and minority groups;
- describe the impact of economic changes in creating income and social inequality and the public responses;
- critically evaluate academic articles and prepare written and oral summaries; and

- research and analyze a topic in economic history and present the results to the class in oral and written form.

## First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

*January 2:* Introduction, Colonial America, Creation of Nation

*January 3:* National Period and the Ante-Bellum Years

*January 4:* Civil War and Post War Years

*January 7:* Post-Civil War Transformation

## Course Details

This class is a capstone class and requires a great deal of reading and writing. The writing will be accomplished through responses to readings, two short papers, a midterm and a final exam.

Reading Responses: You will be asked to respond to ten readings that will be posted on WebCampus. Your response needs to be a **2-page** précis of the information contained in the assigned article. Responses will be graded as 2 points—adequate response, 1 point—inadequate response, 0 points—no submission. Responses should be submitted as hard copy on the day the response is due. I will accept email submissions on a very limited basis with prior approval.

Presentations: On the first day of class, you will create groups of three students. Each group will make **two** presentations during the semester. Topics for these presentations can be chosen from a list that I will provide. Your group may also choose your own topic with my approval. Presentations should be about 15-20 minutes long and involve all group members.

Papers: In addition, each member of the group will **separately** write a short research paper (at least 3 pages, but not much over 4) on the topic. (Write about the whole topic, not just what that individual discussed in the presentation.) This will be due on the last day of presentations. **You should use at least four reliable sources that are not assigned readings in class.** (You can use material from the texts as supplemental sources, but you should not rely on them. Wikipedia and web encyclopedias are not considered reliable.) Sources should be listed in a bibliography on a separate sheet and does not count towards the 3-page minimum. If a source is listed in the bibliography, it must be properly cited in the paper.

Midterm and Final: About a week before the scheduled date of the exams, I will present a list of questions to you. On the day of the exams, I will randomly select some of those questions to be answered in class. The exams will be written in the computer lab on the third floor (AB312). Further instructions on exams will be provided.

Format: All written material must be typed, double-spaced, using 10-12 point fonts. Proper English spelling, grammar and syntax must be used. I'm not concerned very much with the way you format your citations and bibliography for the presentation papers; I just want to see your sources and where you use them.

Participation: Active participation in class is expected. We will be discussing complex and sometimes controversial topics which often do not have a settled or unidimensional answer. I expect a cordial, collegial atmosphere which respects the opinions of others and elicits everyone's participation. Attendance is an essential aspect of this class especially since the course covers 15 weeks in 13 days. However, I will only take attendance on the days when student presentations are scheduled. Unexcused absences will affect your grade.

Computer Usage: I will use WebCampus in this course to allow access to my PowerPoint notes and other material as assigned.

## Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Reading Responses (10 total)	20
Presentations	24
Papers (2 total)	30
Exams (Midterm and Final)	40
<i>Total</i>	<i>114</i>

The percentage distribution for the course is:

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A	94–100
A-	90–93
B+	87–89
B	84–86
B-	80–83
C+	77–79
C	74–76
C-	70–73
D+	66–69
D	60–65
D-	56–59
F	below 55