Econ 3310, American Economic History I (Fall 2014)
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What you will study
This course surveys economic issues in the history of the mainland British colonies, the American Revolution, and the United States to 1860. The economy of the South during 1815-1860 is covered only briefly in this course (and in greater depth in Econ 3320).

Learning objectives
After completing this course, you will be able to:
(1) describe key economic events and trends during the periods studied, appealing to historical data as appropriate, and explain the significance of these events and trends in American economic development;
(2) apply familiar economic tools to historical issues, adapting the tools as appropriate;
(3) explain how interpretations of economic issues relevant to the periods studied have evolved, and evaluate competing interpretations of such issues;
(4) construct interpretations of economic events and trends, by applying economic principles and appealing to historical evidence.

Readings
The text for this course is History of the American Economy, by Gary Walton and Hugh Rockoff (11th or 12th edition). Apart from the text, you will be expected to complete a number of readings in journals and books, as shown on the Reading List.

Each of the required readings on the Reading List can be found in one or more of the following places: (1) two-hour reserve, Uris Library; (2) online, through the CU Library Catalog or as indicated on the reading list; (3) Blackboard, under Course Reserves.

Grades
The grade for this course will be based upon two prelims (30% each) and a final exam (40%). Exams are not cumulative. Exams cover: required readings, material covered in class (whether or not drawn from required readings), and class handouts.

Exam dates
The two prelims are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, and Tuesday, November 4, in class. The final exam will be given during finals week, in the time slot scheduled by the University.

Office hours
Uris 428
Tuesday, 10:15–11:45 a.m.
Thursday, 10:15–11:00 a.m.

Accommodations for disabilities
If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services.
Academic integrity
Cornell’s Code of Academic Integrity and Cornell’s Campus Code of Conduct apply to this course. You can find these policies at:
http://newstudentprograms.cornell.edu/AcademicIntegrityPamphlet.pdf;
http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/treasurer/policyoffice/policies/volumes/governance/campuscode.cfm.

Course Outline

I. Introduction
   A. Modern and pre-modern economic growth
   B. Before the colonies

II. The British Colonies to 1775
   A. Settlers and land
   B. Imperial policy and colonial government
   C. Shipping and trade
   D. The South
   E. The North
   F. Accumulation, growth, and distribution
   G. Impact of the Navigation Acts

III. The Revolution and the Constitution; Federalists and Jeffersonians
   A. The Revolution
   B. The Constitution
   C. Early federal policy
   D. Embargo, war, trade, and growth

IV. Antebellum Period (c1815–1860)
   A. Overview: Growth, trade, and welfare
   B. Land, population, and labor
   C. Transportation: Roads, rivers, and railroads
   D. Shipbuilders, shippers, merchants, and mariners
   E. Northern and western agriculture
   F. Southern agriculture
   G. The industrial revolution
   H. Labor and the early labor movement
   I. Cities, regions, and interregional trade
   J. Money and banking
   K. Government and law