

Economics 3320, American Economic History II

Tom Lyons, Spring 2017

What you will study

This course surveys economic issues in (1) the southern United States during 1815–60, (2) the Civil War, and (3) the United States during 1865–1917.

Learning objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- describe key economic events and trends during the periods studied and explain their significance in American economic development;
- apply familiar economic tools to historical issues, adapting the tools as appropriate;
- explain how interpretations of economic issues relevant to the periods studied have evolved, and evaluate competing interpretations of such issues;
- construct interpretations of economic events and trends, by applying economic principles and appealing to historical evidence.

Readings

The textbook 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, other than the textbook, can be found in one or more of the following places: (1) Uris Library two-hour reserve; (2) online through the CU Library Catalog; (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 a required reading), and class handouts.

Exam dates

The two prelims are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, and Tuesday, March 28. The final exam will be given during final-exam week, in the time slot scheduled by the university.

Office hours

Uris 428

Tuesdays 10:10–11:30

Thursdays 10:10–11:30

Academic integrity

Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity applies to this course. You can find this code at:
cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm.

Videotaping, photographing, audiotaping, or otherwise making any picture or sound recording of an instructor is not permitted without the instructor's written consent. Students are not authorized to replicate, reproduce, copy or transmit such materials, or "derivative" materials (including class notes), for sale or general distribution to others without the written consent of the faculty member, academic staff member, or class participant who is the original source of such materials.

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.

Course Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Modern economic growth; economic growth in the U.S.
 - B. The U.S. economy, 1815–1860
- II. Slavery and War
 - A. Cotton and slavery
 - B. Economics of the Civil War
 - C. Impact of the war
- III. Trade, Shipping, and Ships
- IV. The West and Railroads
 - A. Distribution of public lands, speculation, and tenancy
 - B. Railroads
 - C. The mining and livestock frontiers
 - D. Farm-making and productivity
 - E. Agrarian unrest
- V. The Post-War South
 - A. Emancipation and reconstruction
 - B. Sharecropping and “debt peonage”
 - C. The first New South
- VI. Cities, Industry, and Big Business
 - A. Urbanization
 - B. Industry: Technology and organization
 - C. Scientific management
 - D. Steel, electricity, and motor vehicles
 - E. Robber barons?
- VII. Population, Labor, and Unions
- VIII. Government
- IX. Money, Banks, and Finance