

EC 4680
History of the American Economy
Spring 2008
Dr. Bruce Kaufman
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Course Catalog Description. An intensive study of the development of the American economy with an emphasis upon the changing structure, institutional pattern, and performance of the system.

Prerequisites. None.

Course Materials. The textbook for the course is Gary Walton and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy*, 10th ed. (Thompson-Southwestern).

Course Requirements. Requirements for the course include three mid-semester exams, a final exam, and one written paper. Each exam counts for 21% of the course grade and the paper for 16%.

The paper should examine some specific event/trend/development in American economic history (e.g., the economic effect on the South of the abolition of slavery; the reasons for and consequences of the regulation of the railroads in the late 19th century; the causes of the Great Depression) and provide a more in-depth analysis than contained in the book or class discussion. Paper length is a maximum of 10 *double-spaced* pages with *standard font* size, not including references. The topic and discussion thereof need to emphasize the *economic* dimension (as opposed to political, social, or purely historical) and, in particular, should describe the economic origins and impact of the subject. Several different reference sources are desirable (the text does not count and should not be used). The grade will be based on the depth, breadth, and quality of analysis and the quality of writing style and exposition. Ten points are deducted for the first day the paper is late and five points for every day thereafter. Plagiarism results in a paper grade of F.

Course Rules.

Make-up Policy. All students are expected to take the exams at the scheduled date unless serious illness or business travel make this impossible. No make-up test will be given under any circumstances if the student fails to contact the professor prior to the test.

Cheating/Plagiarism. Persons engaging in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accord with university policy (Section 409).

Deviations from Syllabus. The attached syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Additions or deletions may occur as the course progresses.

Extra Credit. No extra credit projects are permitted.

Attendance Policy. Class attendance is encouraged but not required. However, persons who have missed repeated classes and, in the professor's judgment, are no longer actively enrolled in the course will be given a grade of WF after the midpoint of the term (pursuant to university policy).

Office Hours. T and Th, 10-11 or by appointment.

Contact the Professor: Email at bkaufman@gsu.edu (not on web-ct email) regarding all course matters.

Syllabus

Jan. 8, 10: Chs. 1-2

Jan. 15, 17: Chs. 3-4

Jan. 22, 24: Chs. 5-6

Jan. 29, 31: Ch. 7, Exam I

Feb. 5, 7: Chs. 8-9

Feb 12, 14: Chs. 10-11

Feb. 19-21: Chs. 12-13

Feb. 26-28: Chs. 14, Exam II

Mar 4, 6: Spring Break

Mar. 11, 13: Chs. 15-16

Mar. 18, 20: Chs. 17-18

Mar. 25, 27: Chs. 19-20

Apr. 1, 3: Ch 21, Exam III

Apr. 8, 10: Chs. 22-23

Apr. 15, 17: Chs. 24-25 [Paper due the 17th]

Apr. 22, 24, Chs. 26-27

Last Drop Date to receive a W: Monday, March 3

Last Day of Classes: Thursday April 24

Final Exam: Thursday, May 1, 10:15 AM (same room)

Learning Outcomes for EC 4680

1. Students will be able to describe and understand the economic factors that contributed to the decision of the American colonies to seek independence from Great Britain.
2. Students will be able to describe and understand the origins and early development of factories and other forms of manufacturing in the early United States and the contribution these factors had to the economic growth of the nation.
3. Students will be able to describe and understand the main features of the transportation revolution in the 19th century United States and how this revolution affected the regional and national pattern of economic growth.
4. Students will be able to describe and understand the development of American agriculture during the 19th century, including factors responsible for agricultural productivity growth and the shift of employment out of agriculture to goods production.
5. Students will be able to describe and understand the economic origins and consequences of slavery and the Civil War.
6. Students will be able to describe and understand the reasons for the development of “big business” in the late 19th century and the positive and negative affects large corporations and trusts had on the economy.
7. Students will be able to describe and understand the development of the American money and banking system, including the creation of the Federal Reserve Bank, and the impact of the money and credit system on the development of the economy over the 19th and early 20th centuries.
8. Students will be able to describe and understand the impact industrialization had on the conditions of labor and the origins and development of trade unions and protective labor legislation.
9. Students will be able to describe and understand the economic impact of World War, I, World War II, and the Cold War had on the growth and development of the American economy.
10. Students will be able to describe and understand the origins and impact of the Great Depression on the American economy and the rationale behind President Roosevelt’s New Deal economic program.
11. Students will be able to describe and understand the transition of the American economy from manufacturing to services and rural to urban in the 20th century.