

ECONOMICS 3420
Fall 2016
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 9:00am-9:30am, 10:45am – 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: A complete list of expected learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department web site (http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php).

SEATING ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be asked to fill out a seating chart on the third day of class (August 18) 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 8

Exam #2 – October 13

Exam #3 – November 15

Reading Reaction Papers (17% of final grade) – Students should always read the assigned readings before class to be prepared for class discussions. Over the course of the semester students must choose six reading assignments and write a 1-2 page reaction paper on each chosen assignment. Students must turn in two reaction papers in each of the three test periods. (The first two reaction papers must be written on readings assigned before test 1, the next two must be written on readings assigned between test 1 and test 2, and the last two must be written on readings assigned between test 2 and test 3.) For the reaction paper, students should choose one or more aspects of the assigned reading for that day that they found interesting and/or important and explain (in detail) why they found it interesting and/or important. The reaction paper **must be at least one full page** typed double spaced (12 point Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins) and no more than 2 pages. The reaction paper is due in class the day the chosen reading is assigned. Reaction papers will not be accepted late.

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, 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 article) are due on October 20. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length (typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font) and is due on November 8. 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 November 17, November 29, and December 1 during class and December 8, 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.

Class Participation (3% of final grade) – Students are expected to be prepared for class and to participate in class discussions. It is also expected that students will arrive on time and not leave early.

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

By enrolling and continuing in this course you agree to the following.

Having read the Honor Code for the University of West Georgia, I understand and accept my responsibility to uphold the values and beliefs described therein and to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect the values of the Institution and the Richards College of Business so as to respect the rights of all UWG community members. As a UWG student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly and within the parameters set by my instructor. I understand and accept that if I am found guilty of violations (through processes due me as a UWG student and outlined in the UWG Student Handbook), penalties will be imposed. I also recognize that my responsibility includes willingness to confront members of the UWG community if I feel there has been a violation of the Honor Code. Ultimately, I will conduct myself in a manner that promotes UWG as the best place to work, learn, and succeed for my generation, and those to come!

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 from the Department of English and Philosophy at the following link: http://www.westga.edu/english/1138_2219.php

CLASS CANCELLATION:

In the event that classes are canceled on the day of an exam or that an assignment is due, the exam will be given or the assignment will be due on the first day 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 following link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

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

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.