Economics 452/552  
Economic History of the United States  
Fall 1985 - 9:30-10:45 Econ. 119  
Prof. Barry W. Poulson  
Office: Economics 210A  
Office Hours: 10:45-12:00 TTh and by appointment  


Books on Reserve:  
Peter Temin, The Jacksonian Economy.  
Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, Time on the Cross.  
Peter Temin, Did Monetary Forces Cause the Great Depression  
Terry L. Anderson and Peter J. Hill, The Birth of A Transfer Society  

Course Requirements:  
Two Midterm Examinations (essay)  
Final Examination (essay)  
Term Paper (see term paper project)  

Examination Policy: The final examination is composed of two sections. The first section covers the material in Part III of the course syllabus. All students are required to complete the first section of the final examination. The second section of the final is a comprehensive exam covering the course as a whole. For students who have completed all their examinations, the second section of the final examination is optional. If a student scores higher on the second part of the final than on one of the midterm exams, the higher grade will be substituted for the lower grade. Each student will have three exam grades, and a term paper grade, these four grades are equally weighted in the final grade. If a student misses a midterm examination, that student is required to take the second section of the final exam. Examinations will only be given at the scheduled times and NO make up examinations will be given.  

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<th>Week of Part I</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Poulson Ch. 1</td>
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| Sept. 10      | The Institutional Framework | Poulson Ch. 2  
Anderson and Hill, Ch. 1-4 |
| Sept. 12      | Demographic Change | Poulson Ch. 3 |
| Sept. 17      | Economic Growth | Poulson Ch. 4  
Shepherd and Walton, Ch. 1-9 |
| Sept. 19      | International Trade | Poulson Ch. 5 |
| Sept. 24      | Structural Change | Poulson Ch. 6 |
### Econ. 452/552

#### Week of September 26
- **Topic**: Monetary Change and Public Finance
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 7

#### Week of October 1
- **Topic**: Distribution of Income and Wealth
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 8

#### Week of October 3
- **First Midterm Examination**

#### Part II - Week of October 8
- **Topic**: The Transition to Modern Economic Growth (Supplementary Reading - Peter Temin, The Jacksonian Economy; Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, Time on the Cross; Terry Anderson and Peter Hill, Ch. 5-6.)
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 9

#### Week of October 10
- **Topic**: Institutional Change
- **Assignment**: Anderson and Hill, Ch. 5-6

#### Week of October 15
- **Topic**: Demographic Change
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 10

#### Week of October 17
- **Topic**: Economic Growth
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 11

#### Week of October 22
- **Topic**: International Trade
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 12

#### Week of October 24
- **Topic**: Structural Change
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 13

#### Week of March 29
- **Topic**: Transportation
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 14

#### Part III - Economic Growth in a Mature Economy (Supplementary Reading - Terry Anderson and Peter Hill, Ch. 7-9; Peter Temin Did Monetary Forces Cause the Great Depression)

#### Week of November 5
- **Topic**: Monetary Change and Public Finance
- **Assignment**: Ch. 16

#### Week of November 7
- **Second Midterm Examination**

#### Week of November 12
- **Topic**: Distribution of Income and Wealth
- **Assignment**: Ch. 17

#### Week of November 14
- **Topic**: Institutional Change
- **Assignment**: Anderson and Hill, Ch. 7-9

#### Week of November 19
- **Topic**: Demographic Change
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 19

#### Week of November 21
- **Topic**: Economic Growth
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 20 and Ch. 21

#### Week of November 26
- **Topic**: International Trade
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 22

#### Week of November 28
- **Topic**: Agriculture
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 23

#### Week of December 3
- **Topic**: Manufacturing
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 24

#### Week of December 5
- **Topic**: The Service Industries
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 25

#### Week of December 10
- **Topic**: Regional Trends
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 26

#### Week of December 12
- **Topic**: Monetary Change and Public Finance
- **Assignment**: Poulson Ch. 27

#### Week of December 19
- **Final Exam**: 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Econ. 119
Term Paper Project

The term paper for this course is not the usual project in which you select a topic and submit a paper at the end of the course. The term paper you write for the course is structured to address a specific set of issues within an analytical framework. The issues are presented in Terry L. Anderson and Peter J. Hill book, "The Birth of a Transfer Society". They argue that changes in the american institutional framework, and in particular the changing public-private mix of economic activity over time, have shifted us from a productive to a transfer society. The framework for their analysis is the public choice paradigm. Your term paper assignment is to choose a specific institutional change in american economic history and analyze that change with references to the issues and analytical framework developed by Anderson and Hill. The more clearly focused your term paper the easier it will be to write. For example, you might focus on the following kinds of institutional changes in american economic history: money and monetary policies; banking institutions and banking policy; fiscal policies; foreign trade and trade policy; american agriculture and agricultural policy; regulatory activity and american industry: e.g., railroads and the ICC, airlines and the FAA, communications and the FCC etc.; antitrust and american industry: e.g., the petroleum industry, computer industry etc.; the changing private public mix in the service industries of education, health care, the arts etc.; the labor movement and labor market policies; the welfare of the poor and welfare programs.

The list of topics is not exhaustive but rather a suggestion which may help you to focus your own topic. You will want to focus your topic in several ways, i.e., in terms of a specific institutional assignment in an historical setting and with references to the specific set of issues raised by Anderson and Hill. The following schedule is required for completion of the term paper.

Sept. 24    Tentative term paper topic and paper bibliography due
Oct.  8     Final term paper and bibliography due
Nov. 28    Term paper due

Important
Your term paper should follow the standards for such papers, e.g., consult the Chicago Manual of Style, including footnoting, outline, and bibliography, etc.