Economics 4524

Economic History of the U.S.

Instructor: Jill Van Stone
Office: Economics 309C
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:45a.m. - 12:30p.m.
Thursday 1:30p.m. - 3:00p.m.
Phone: 492-6875, or leave message at 492-6394
E-mail: vans@horton.colorado.edu
Class: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30a.m. - 10:45a.m., Economics 117
Prerequisites: ECON 2020, Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 3070, Intermediate Microeconomics

Purpose and Objectives: Economic history uses economic theory to understand the causes and/or effects of events in history. History is anything that has happened before now. This class will focus on events in the U.S. since the Civil War. In particular, what were the economic causes and/or effects of technological innovations, government policies, wars, recessions, etc. You should gain a greater understanding of U.S. history and an enhanced appreciation for the applications of all the theoretical economics stuff you have learned in previous classes.

Components of your final grade:
30% Mid-term Exam (Tuesday, October 24)
35% Paper (Due Thursday, December 7, by 3:00p.m.)
35% Final Exam (Given during the exam period for this class, Friday, December 15, 3:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.)

Exams: Each exam will be in class and consist of about 15 short essay questions, of which you will choose 10 to answer. YOU MUST BRING A BLUEBOOK FOR EACH EXAM. I will collect and redistribute the bluebooks before the test. The Final Exam will NOT be cumulative. I expect the answers to be clear, concise paragraphs that demonstrate understanding of the history as well as the underlying economics of the situation.

Paper: The paper will be a literature survey that reviews 3(three) scholarly journal articles about any topic covered in the class. I must approve your topics and 3 articles by Thursday, October 5. We will discuss paper contents on Thursday, August 31, and spend some time identifying resources for your work. Paper are DUE Thursday, December 7, by 3:00p.m.

A literature survey explains thoroughly the purpose of each article, focusing on the primary contributions that the work makes to our understanding of the topic. Your paper should define your topic, survey your three articles, and conclude with questions about your topic that are not answered by the articles surveyed.
ECON 4524  
COURSE CALENDAR  

August 29  Introduction  
August 31  Continue Introduction, Discuss Paper, Library  
Sept. 5  Chapter 13, Economic Effects of the Civil War  
Sept. 7, 12  Chapter 14, Railroads and Economic Development  
Sept. 14  Chapter 15, Post-Civil War Agriculture  
Sept. 19  Chapter 16, Population Growth and the Atlantic Migration  
Sept. 21  Chapter 17, Industrialization and Urban Growth  
Sept. 26, 28  Chapter 18, Big Business and Government Intervention  
Oct. 3, 5  Chapter 19, Financial Developments 1863-1914  
Oct. 10, 12  Chapter 20, The Giant Economy and Its International Relations  
Oct. 17  Chapter 21, Labor and the Law  
Oct. 19, 22  Chapter 22, Special Topics: The Post-Civil War Era  
Oct. 24  MID-TERM EXAM  
Oct. 31, Nov. 2  Chapter 24, "Normalcy": 1919-30  
Nov. 7, 9  Chapter 25, The Great Depression and the New Deal  
Nov. 14  Chapter 26, The "Prosperity" of Wartime  
Nov. 16  Chapter 27, Special Topic: The New Deal at a Distance  
Nov. 21  Chapter 28, From World War II to the New Frontier  
Nov. 28, 30  Chapter 29, Tertiary Sector and the Labor Force  
Dec. 5, 7  Chapter 30, Modern Industrial Developments  
(PAPER DUE by 3:00p.m. Thursday December 7)  
Dec. 12  Chapter 31, From the New Frontier Past the Supply Side: 1960-1990  
Dec. 15  FINAL EXAM, Friday from 3:30 to 6:30