COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the economic history of the United States. Its purpose is to expose students to economic history as a method of economic analysis and to examine the main features of America's economic growth and development. The course will require extensive input from the students. Considerable emphasis will be placed on participation in discussions and a demonstration of the mastering of the tools of economic history in evaluating materials in class and completing a research paper. Knowledge of standard analytical tools and empirical techniques of micro and macro-economics is strongly recommended.

Two useful reference books for the course are: Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell *A New Economic View of American History from Colonial Times to 1940* 2nd Ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 1994); and Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain. *American Economic History.* For Hughes and Cain, you do not need the latest edition. These books will be helpful for you to gain an overview of economic history as well as citations for your possible research papers.

WEEKLY POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS: For every session of reading except the first, half of the class will prepare brief PowerPoint presentations in which they critically evaluate 2-3 of the assigned readings for the week, providing 1) an overview of the topic, 2) a critique of the sources and methods, 3) a description of the key results (including important tables and figures from the source materials), and 4) suggestions for extension and improvement, to guide our conversation about the topic. Students should divide the readings among themselves so that all selections are covered by at least one student.

**Required Readings:** The papers for the course will be posted on my webpage.

**Components of Grade:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Power Point Presentations of Readings</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper - First Draft/Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper - Second Draft</td>
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Class Schedule:

Aug 22          Introduction

Aug 24 & 29   I. Methods and Materials of Economic History


August 31 &   II. Land and Institutions in the Colonial and Early National Periods
Sept 7

III. Migration to America


IV. Slavery


V. Tenancy, ‘Coerced’ Labor, and Debt Peonage

VI. Technological Change and Economic Growth

VII. Property Rights to Resources
Oct 17 and 19  VIII. Early Business Organizations/Corporations and Corruptionn


Oct 24 and 26  IX  Regulation

Oct 31 and Nov 2  X  The Great Depression and the New Deal


Nov 7 & 9  XI  Innovation

XI. The Growth of the U.S. Government and World War II


Nov 28 & 30  Student Presentations

Dec 5 & 7  Student Presentations