

Fall 2014

ECON 4524-001

Economic History of the United States

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Instructor: Zach Ward

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Schedule: MWF 11:00-11:50,

Office/ Office Hours: Econ 14; Tuesday 3:30-5:30; Wednesday 1-2

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### **I. Course Description:**

This course serves as a general overview of United States economic history. Economic history plays an important role to understanding the world today and for testing economic theories by using data from the past. The United States offers a unique perspective to understanding various aspects of the economy: this class will specifically focusing on the technological advance, institutions, inequality, labor and health side of American economic history.

### **II. Requirements**

This is a 4000-level course, which requires you to have taken ECON 3070 and ECON 3080 (Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics). The following book is recommended for the class and available at the UMC bookstore

- American Economic History (Eighth Edition) by Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain (H&C)
- Articles for the course will be posted at D2L.

### **III. Performance**

Midterm 1: 25% - Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Midterm 2: 25% - Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Final Exam: 40% - Sunday, December 14 from 7:30 pm – 10 pm

Attendance/Participation: 10%

Note that you are graded on outputs, not inputs. In other words, I do not observe how much time you spend studying or preparing, I only see and thus grade you on the final output.

## **Outline of Course (subject to revision):**

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### **(8/25) Introduction to Economic History and Cliometrics**

### **(8/27) Thinking about Long-Run Economic Growth**

- \*Sokoloff, Kenneth and Stanley Engerman, "History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments and Paths of Development in the New World," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Summer 2000.

### **(8/29) Path Dependence in Economics**

- Hoyt Bleakley and Jeffrey Lin, "Portage and Path Dependence" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, May 2012
- Nico Voigtländer and Hans Joachim-Voth, "Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2012

### **(9/1) Labor Day**

### **(9/3) Pre-Colonial and Colonial America**

- \*H&C Ch 3

### **(9/5) Indentured Servitude**

- \*H&C Ch 6
- Abramitzky, Ran and Fabio Braggion, "Migration and Human Capital: Self-Selection of Indentured Servants to the Americas", *Journal of Economic History*, December 2006

### **(9/8) Constitution and Institutional Background**

- \*H&C Ch 7
- \*The Constitution
- North, Douglass, "Economic Performance through Time." *American Economic Review*, June 1994.

### **(9/10) Land Policies and Funding of the Government**

- Gary Libecap and Dean Lueck, "The Demarcation of Land and the Role of Coordinating Property Institutions", *Journal of Political Economy*, June 2011

### **(9/12) Cancelled Class: at Economic History Association Meetings**

### **(9/15) Farming in early 1800s**

- \*H&C Ch 9
- Alesina, Alberto, Paulo Guiliano, and Nathan Nunn, "On the Origin of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, May 2013

### **(9/17) Industrialization in early 1800s**

- \*H&C Ch 11
- Goldin, Claudia and Kenneth Sokoloff, “Women, Children and Industrialization in the Early Republic: Evidence from the Manufacturing Censuses”, Journal of Economic History, December 1982

### **(9/19) Migration under Sail and America as Refuge**

- \*Cohn, Raymond, “Nativism and the End of the Mass Migration of the 1840s and 1850s”, Journal of Economic History, June 2000

### **(9/22) Land Expansion and Internal Migration: Go West Young Man**

- H&C Ch 5
- Richard Steckel, “The Economic Foundations of East-West Migration during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century,” Explorations in Economic History, 1989

### **(9/24) Transportation: Canals, Railroads and Economic Growth**

- \*H&C Ch 14 and Ch 8
- David Donaldson and Richard Hornbeck, “Railroad and American Economic Growth: A “Market Access” Approach”, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper, July 2013

### **(9/26) Exam 1**

### **(9/29) Economics of the Civil War**

- \*H&C Ch 13

### **(10/1) Fallout of the Civil War**

- \*H&C Ch 15
- Alston, Lee J. and Robert Higgs, Contractual Mix in Southern Agriculture since the Civil War”, Journal of Economic History, 1982
- Naidu, Suresh, “Recruitment Restrictions and Labor Markets: Evidence from the Postbellum U.S. South”, Journal of Labor Economics, 2010

### **(10/3) Demographic Changes: Births, Deaths and Health**

- John Komlos “Shrinking in a Growing Economy? The Mystery of Physical Stature during the Industrial Revolution”, Journal of Economic History, September 1998
- Hoyt Bleakely, Dora Costa and Adriana Lleras-Muney, “Health, Education and Income in the United States, 1820-2000”, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2013
- David Cutler and Grant Miller, “The Role of Public Health Improvements in Health Advances: The Twentieth-Century United States”, Demography, 2005
- Karen Clay, Werner Troesken, and Michael Haines, “Lead and Mortality”, Review of Economics and Statistics

### **(10/6) Rise of Big Business, Technological Change and Inequality Part I: The 1800s**

- Robert Margo and Katz Part I, “Technical Change and the Relative Demand for Skilled Labor: The United States in Historical Perspective”, National Bureau of Economic Research, February 2013

### **(10/8) Rise of Big Business, Unions and Progressive Movement**

- \*H&C Ch 17 and Ch 21
- Carolyn Moehling, “State Child Labor Laws and the Decline of Child Labor,” Explorations in Economic History, 1999

### **(10/10 – 10/13) Age of Mass Migration and Globalization**

- \*H&C Ch 20
- Timothy Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson, “What Drove the Mass Migrations from Europe in the Late Nineteenth Century”, Population and Development Review, 1994
- Ran Abramitzky, Leah Platt Boustan and Katherine Eriksson, “Europe’s Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-Selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration”, American Economic Review 2012
- Ran Abramitzky, Leah Platt Boustan and Katherine Eriksson, “A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration”, Journal of Political Economy, 2014

### **(10/15) Human Capital Century and High School Movement**

- \*Claudia Goldin, “The Human-Capital Century and American Leadership: Virtues of the Past”, Journal of Economic History, June 2001

### **(10/17-10/20) Technological Change and Inequality Part I: The 1800s and Early 1900s**

- Rowena Gray, “Taking Technology to Task: The Skill Content of Technological Change in the Early Twentieth Century United States”, Explorations in Economic History, July 2013
- Robert Margo and Katz Part I, “Technical Change and the Relative Demand for Skilled Labor: The United States in Historical Perspective”, National Bureau of Economic Research, February 2013
- \*Petra Moser, “Patents and Innovation”, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2013

### **(10/22) The Great War**

- \*H&C Ch 22

### **(10/24) Immigration Restrictions and changes to population flows**

- Joshua Angrist, “How do Sex Ratios affect Marriage and Labor Markets? Evidence from America’s Second Generation”, Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2002

### **(10/27) The Roaring Twenties**

- \*H&C Ch 23
- Banking and Farm Failures

### **(10/29) Political Enfranchisement and Disenfranchisement**

- Grant Miller, “Women’s Suffrage, Political Responsiveness and Child Survival in American History,” Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2008
- Suresh Naidu, “Suffrage, Schooling and Sorting in the Post-Bellum US South”, National Bureau of Economic Research, June 2012

### **(10/31) Exam 2**

### **(11/3) Altruistic Capitalists**

- Hoyt Bleakley, “Disease and Development: Evidence from Hookworm Eradication in the American South”, Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2007
- Daniel Aaronson and Bhashkar Mazumder, “The impact of Rosenwald Schools on Black Achievements” Journal of Political Economy, 2011

### **(11/5 – 11/7) The Great Depression: Causes and the New Deal**

- \*H & C Ch 24, Ch 25
- Christina Romer, “The Nation in Depression”, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 1993

### **(11/10) The Dust Bowl**

- Hornbeck, Richard, “The Enduring Impact of the American Dust Bowl: Short and Long-run Adjustments to Environmental Catastrophe” American Economic Review, June 2012

### **(11/12) The End of the Great Depression and World War II**

- \*H&C Ch 26
- Alexander Field, “The Most Technologically Progressive Decade of the Century”, American Economic Review, 2003

### **(11/14) The Expansion of Government**

- Robert Higgs, The Sources of Big Government
- Robert Higgs, How Much has Government Grown?

### **(11/17) The Great Compression and Social Mobility, Inequality Part II**

- \*H & C Ch 27
- Claudia Goldin and Robert Margo, “The Great Compression: The Wage Structure in the United States at Mid-Century,” Quarterly Journal of Economics, February 1992

### **(11/19) The New Frontier and Great Society**

- Lee J. Alston and Joseph Ferrie, “Paternalism in Agricultural Labor Contracts in the U.S. South: Implications for the Growth of the Welfare State”, American Economic Review, Sept 1993

### **(12/1) White Flight, Suburbanization and Inequality across Space**

- H & C Ch 28
- Leah Platt Boustan, “Was Postwar Suburbanization ‘White Flight’? Evidence from the Black Migration”, Quarterly Journal of Economics, February 2010
- Nathanael Baum-Snow, “Did Highways Cause Suburbanization?”, Quarterly Journal of Economics, May 2007
- Glaeser et al. “Growth in Cities”
- David Cutler, Edward Glaeser, and Jacob Vigdor. “The Rise and Decline of the American Ghetto”, Journal of Political Economy 1999
- Nathanael Baum-Snow and Byron Lutz, “School Desegregation, School Choice, and Changes in Residential Location Patterns by Race”, American Economic Review, December 2011

### **(12/3) The Rise of Mexican Migration**

### **(12/5) The Power of the Pill**

- Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz, “The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women’s Career and Marriage Decisions”, Journal of Political Economy, August 2002
- Martha Bailey, “More power to the Pill: The Impact of Contraceptive Freedom on Women’s Labor Supply”, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2006

### **(12/8) The Fetal Origins Hypothesis: Long-term health effects**

- \*Douglas Almond and Janet Currie, “Killing me Softly: The Fetal Origins Hypothesis”, Journal of Economic Perspectives, June 2011

### **(12/10) Inequality III: Today!**

- \*Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, “Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998”, Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2003
- Autor, Dorn and Hanson, “The China Syndrome: Local Labor Market Effects of Import Competition in the United States”, American Economic Review, October 2013

### **(12/12) Office Hours**

### **Classroom Behavior Policy**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions.

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_cod](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod)

### **Honor Code**

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273).

Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

### **Discrimination & Harassment Policy**

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>