

## ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Prof. Lee J. Alston  
Econ 4524-001-Room: Econ 119  
TTH 12:30-1:45

Office Hrs: TTH 3:15 - 4:15 and by Appt (492 4257)

Fall 2007

Econ 4524-002-Room 117

TTH 2:00-3:15

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### Announcements of Importance:

1. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>
2. I will make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please notify me by the third week of class if you anticipate a conflict.
3. Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, 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\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)
4. The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status 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, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>
5. 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/>

**Required Reading:** Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain (H&C), **American Economic History** (Sixth edition); and **Material Posted on the Website**

**Components of Final Grade:** Three exams: Exam 1 (25%); Exam 2 (35%); Exam 3 (40%).

**Schedule of Classes:**

Aug 28 Do I Want To Take This Class?

Aug 30 The Institutional Background for Economic Growth  
H&C: Chapters 1 (pp. 13-16), Chapter 2 (pp.38-42) Chapter 7, and Chapter 31.  
Alston and Mueller, Property Rights and the State

Sep 4 Indentured Servitude: The Market for Moving Free People to America  
H&C: Chapter 1 (pp. 10-12).

Sep 6 Slavery  
& 11 H&C: Chapters 9 & 10

Sep 13 Economics of the Civil War  
H&C: Chapter 13

Sep 18 Peopling the Country: Births, Deaths, Immigration and Migration  
& 20 H&C: Chapters 16-17

Sep 25 Money, Banks and Government Policy  
H&C: Chapter 19

Sep 27 Southern Agriculture - Not Everyone Was Sipping Mint Juleps  
& Oct 2 H&C: Chapter 13 (pp. 262-273)  
Alston: "Issues in U.S. Postbellum..."  
Atack and Passell: "The South After the.."

**Oct 4: No class – study for exam.**

**EXAM OCT 8 –EDUC 220 6:00-7:50 pm**

Oct 9 Northern Agriculture- Too Wet To Plow: Protest  
& 11 H&C: Chapter 15  
Atack and Passell: "Northern Agricultural.."

Oct 16 The Iron Horse and Economic Growth  
H&C: Chapter 14

Oct 18 The Microsofts of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Regulation and the Origins of Anti-Trust  
H&C: Chapter 18

Oct 23 The Wild West: The Use and Abuse of Natural Resources  
Libecap, "Property Rights in ..."

Oct 30 The Great War  
H&C: Chapter 22

**NO CLASS ON NOV 1**

Nov 6 The Roaring Twenties: Farms Failing and Banks Busting  
H&C: Chapter 23

**EXAM NOV 12 EDUC 220 6:00-7:50 pm**

Nov 8 The Great Depression  
13, & H&C: Chapters 24 & 25  
15 Atack and Passell: "The Great Depression: The Contraction" and "The Recovery"

Nov 27 World War II: The End of, or Continuation of the Great Depression?  
H&C: Chapter 26  
Higgs: " "

Nov 29 When and Why Government Got Big  
H&C: Chapters 27 & 30  
Higgs, "The Sources of Big Government..."  
Higgs, "How Much Has Government Grown..."  
Higgs, "On Ideology as an Analytical ..."

Dec 4 The New Frontier and the Great Society: Why then?

Dec 6 Development in Latin America: lessons from U.S. Economic History  
& 11

Dec 13 Answers to Anything You Ever Wanted to Know About  
Economic History But Were Afraid to Ask

**Final Exam**