

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Prof. Lee J. Alston

Room: HLMS 241

Office Hrs: WF 11:00 to 12:00 and by Appt (492 4257)

Fall 2009

Econ 4524-002 MWF 10:00-10:50

email: lee.alston@colorado.edu

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

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

Schedule of Classes:

Aug 24 Do I Want To Take This Class?

Aug 26 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

Aug 28 Indentured Servitude: The Market for Moving Free People to America

& 31 H&C: Chapter 1 (pp. 10-12).

Sep 2 Slavery

& 4 H&C: Chapters 9 & 10

Steckel,

Sep 9 Economics of the Civil War

H&C: Chapter 13

Sep 11 Peopling the Country: Births, Deaths, Immigration and Migration

& 14 H&C: Chapters 16-17

Sep 16 Money, Banks and Government Policy

& 18 H&C: Chapter 19

Sept 21 Southern Agriculture - Not Everyone Was Sipping Mint Juleps

-25 H&C: Chapter 13 (pp. 262-273)

Alston: "Issues in U.S. Postbellum..."

Atack and Passell: "The South After the.."

Sept 28 Northern Agriculture- Too Wet To Plow: Protest

& 30 H&C: Chapter 15

Atack and Passell: "Northern Agricultural.."

Oct 2 Review for Exam

Oct 5 Exam 1- Long Essay

Oct 7 Exam 1- Short essays

Oct 9 Transportation: The Iron Horse and Economic Growth
& 12 H&C: Chapter 14

Oct 14 The Microsofts of the 19th Century: Regulation and the Origins of Anti-Trust
& 16 H&C: Chapter 18

Oct 19 The Wild West: The Use and Abuse of Natural Resources
& 21 Libecap, "Property Rights in ..."

Oct 23 The Political Economy of Natural Gas Leasing

Oct 26 Property Rights on Frontiers
Alston, Harris and Mueller, "De Facto and De Jure Property Rights

Oct 28 The Great War
H&C: Chapter 22

Oct 30 Business Cycles
Video

Nov 2 The Roaring Twenties: Farms Failing and Banks Busting
& 4 H&C: Chapter 23Exam

Nov 6 The Great Depression
9, 11 H&C: Chapters 24 & 25
& 13 Atack and Passell: "The Great Depression: The Contraction" and "The Recovery"

Nov 16 World War II: The End of, or Continuation of the Great Depression?
H&C: Chapter 26
Higgs: " "

Nov 20 Exam 2 – Long Essay

Nov 22 Exam 2- Short Essays

Nov 30 When and Why Government Got Big
Dec 2 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 Catch-up

Dec 7 The New Frontier and the Great Society: Why then?

Dec 9 Argentina and Brazil: Lessons from U.S. Economic History

Dec 11 Answers to Anything You Ever Wanted to Know About
Economic History But Were Afraid to Ask

FINAL EXAM December 15 – 4:30-7:00