

Fall 2012

ECON 4524-001

Economic History of the United States

Professor: Lee J. Alston

Email: Lee.Alston@colorado.edu

Office: ECON 202

Office Hours: T,R 11:00 –1 2:00
(And by appointment 303-492-4257)

Class Schedule and location:

9:30-10:45 Econ 119

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

II. REQUIREMENTS

The final grade is determined as follows:

- **Exam 1 : 20%**
- **Exam 2: 40%**
- **Exam 3: 40%**

III. READINGS

Readings will include both books and articles. Assigned articles and book chapters are listed in the course schedule. The following books are required for the class and are available for purchase at the UMC bookstore:

- **American Economic History** (Eighth Edition) by Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain (H&C)
- Some articles will be available on line on the course website at:
<http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/eb/alston/econ4524/>

*If reading assignments change somewhat during the course of the semester, you will be notified in advance.

IV. SCHEDULE

Dates to Remember:

Exam 1 – Oct 9

Exam 2 - Nov. 11

Final Exam

Aug 28 Do I Want To Take This Class?

Aug 30 Thinking About Long Run Economic and Political Development

- Alston, Melo, Mueller and Pereira “Why Nations Succeed” (on website)

Sept 4 Indentured Servitude: The Market for Moving Free People to America

- H&C: Chapter 1 (pp. 9-12)

Sept 6 The Institutional Background

- H&C: Chapters Chapter 2 (pp.39-42); chapter 5 (pp. 87-90)
- Articles of Confederation
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/artconf.asp;
- Constitution – (on website)

**Sept. 11 Slavery
& 13**

- H&C: Chapters 9 & 10

Sept. 18 Economics of the Civil War

- H&C: Chapter 13

Sept. 20

Sept. 25 The Transformation of the Economy and Peopling the Country: Births, Deaths, Immigration and Migration

- H&C: Chapters 16-17

**Sept. 27 Southern Agriculture - Not Everyone Was Sipping Mint
& Oct 2 Juleps**

- H&C: Chapter 13 (pp. 270-278)
- Alston: "Issues in U.S. Postbellum..."
- Atack and Passell: "The South After the.."

Oct. 4 Northern Agriculture- Too Wet To Plow: Protest

- H&C: Chapter 15
- Atack and Passell: "Northern Agricultural.."

Oct. 9 EXAM 1

**Oct. 11 The Wild West: The Use and Abuse of Natural Resources
& 16**

- Libecap, "Property Rights in ..."
- Alston, Harris and Mueller "The Development of Property Rights...."

Oct 18 Water Rights in the American West

Oct 23 The Iron Horse and Economic Growth

- H&C: Chapter 14

Oct. 25 Finance and Regulation in the late 19th Century Regulation

- H&C: Chapter 18

Oct. 30 The Great War

- H&C: Chapter 22

Nov 1 Roaring Twenties: Farms Failing and Banks Busting

- H&C: Chapter 23

Nov 6 Business Cycles

- Video

Nov 8 The Great Depression- Part I

- H&C: Chapters 24
- Atack and Passell: "The Great Depression: The Contraction"

Nov 13 EXAM II

Nov 15 The Great Depression- The New Deal

- H&C: Chapters 25
- Atack and Passell: "The Recovery"

**Nov 27 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?

- Alston and Ferrie, "Southern Paternalism....."

Dec 6 The Legal Migration of Mexicans

Dec 11 The Rise of Brazil

- Alston, Melo, Mueller and Pereira

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

Final Exam

V. THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW / ACADEMIC POLICIES

Learning disabilities

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 www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Religious Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty 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. The above remark on timely signaling of special accommodation needs applies also to religious observance needs. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Class Behavior

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 members have 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_code

Academic Integrity

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; 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

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment

(<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies 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 and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>