

Economics 4524 : Economic History of the United States

Fall 2018 • Hellems 267 • Monday-Wednesday-Friday • 11:00-11:50am

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Office: Economics 14C • Office Hours: MonWed, 8-10am

Description

The United States has experienced sustained economic growth over most of its history. More recently growth has slowed and outcomes across space have diverged. Economists, policymakers, and pundits have strained for explanations. This course will look to the past to understand the sources of economic growth throughout US history, the integration of different groups into the economy over time, and the reasons for optimism or pessimism about future prospects. Topics covered include Colonial Origins, Indentured Servitude, the American Revolution, the Early Republic, Mass Migration, Slavery and the Civil War, and Intergenerational Mobility.

Course Materials

Course materials—including lectures, readings, and assignments—will be made available on [Desire2Learn](#). All readings on the course outline are required and should be completed by Monday of the assigned week. Students are **required** to have access to **Excel**.

Grading

Attendance (5% total): Daily attendance is required. If you miss more than 10% of the lectures, you will receive a zero for the attendance grade; if you miss more than 20% of the lectures, you will receive an automatic F in the course. You must attend at least 80% of lectures to pass the course. Attendance will be recorded through clicker responses in class.

Assignments (45% total, $3 \times 15\%$ each): There will be three assignments, which will include data analysis in **Excel** and answering questions about lectures and course readings. All answers must be typed; hand-written responses will not be accepted. A hardcopy must be turned in at the start of class on the dates listed below; emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Exams (50% total, 20% midterm + 30% final): There will be an in-class midterm exam and a final exam on the date schedule by the University. The final exam will cover material from the entire course. The dates of the exam are listed below.

Policy on late or missed course requirements: Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 10 percent per day. Students unable to complete required coursework for medical reasons must provide written documentation.

Office Hours & Email

I encourage you to attend office hours or to setup a time to meet outside of office hours if the day/time listed above do not work for you. You should come to office hours prepared with questions or ready to discuss the course material. Office hours is the appropriate forum for addressing questions about course material or policies. Use email to setup a time to meet outside of office hours, if necessary.

Cell Phones, Laptops, Etc

Laptops, cell phones, and other devices with screens are not to be used during class. If you are using laptops, cell phones, and other devices you will be asked to leave the class.

Course Policies

Accommodation for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Religious Holidays: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please review the course schedule at the beginning of the semester and see me regarding any anticipated conflicts due to religious observances. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation: The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct

(including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Course Outline

Introduction (week 1)

- 1 Goldin, “The Economist as Detective”
- 1 Podcast with Jill Lepore on “Traveling through Time”, Conversations with Tyler

Colonial Origins (week 2)

- 2 Engerman & Sokoloff, “Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World”
- 2 Acemoglu et al, “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development”

Indentured Servitude (weeks 3-4)

- 3 Galenson, “The Rise and Fall of Indentured Servitude in the Americas”
- 4 Abramitzky & Braggion, “Migration and Human Capital”

American Revolution (week 5)

- 5 Galiani & Torrens, “Why Not Taxation and Representation?”
- 5 Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, Bill of Rights

The Early Republic (weeks 6-8)

- 6 Lamoreaux & Wallis, “States, Not Nation”
- 7 Hilt & Liang, “Andrew Jackson’s Bank War and the Panic of 1837”
- 8 Donaldson & Hornbeck, “Railroads and American Economic Growth”

Mass Migration (weeks 9-10)

- 9 Abramitzky & Boustan, “Immigration in American History”
- 10 Goldin, “The Political Economy of Immigration Restriction”

Slavery and the Civil War (weeks 11-13)

- 11 Olmstead & Rhode, “Productivity Growth and Regional Dynamics”
- 12 Gonzalez, Marshall, & Naidu, “Start-Up Nation?”
- 13 Goldin & Lewis, “The Economic Cost of the American Civil War”

Intergenerational Mobility (weeks 14-15)

- 14 Long & Ferrie, “Intergenerational Occupational Mobility”
- 15 Chetty et al, “The Fading American Dream”