

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
ECON3120, Economic History of the U.S.

Spring, 2008: Sat. Afternoons, 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Class Session Dates: Mar. 29; Apr. 5,19,26; May 10,17,31

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Robert D. Melvin Ph.D.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on the economic history and growth of the United States. Most Americans are unfamiliar with the majestic struggle that transformed an insignificant collection of colonies into the greatest economy in the history of the world. U.S. economic history is the story of great advances, discouraging upsets, and the incredible hopes of diverse individuals and groups for a better life. The student will explore economic history from several perspectives and will discover how the problems and opportunities society faces today are related to past experiences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this course is to acquaint the student with the economic-and related-events which surround the building of the U.S. economy. Associated objectives include understanding the social, political, and philosophical frameworks which paralleled economic growth. In addition, particular facets of economic development, including family life, industrialization, international trade, agriculture, and the status of people will be examined in depth.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The Women's College fully endorses the University of Denver's Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research—is in violation of the code and will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures

(www.du.edu/honorcode).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Each student will prepare one term paper on a topic selected by the student from a broad list of topics. In addition, there will be a midterm essay exam and two brief in-class quizzes. Finally, each student will deliver a shore in-class presentation on a topic taken from assigned readings. The weights given to each of the assignments listed above will be negotiated during the first class period.

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY: Attendance in all classes is expected. Work which is missed, particularly quizzes and examinations, cannot be made-up.

INCOMPLETE POLICY: A grade of incomplete will be granted only under special circumstances and will not be automatically granted for absenteeism.

COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

1. REQUIRED:

Jonathan Hughes and Louis P. Cain, American Economic History (6th)
(5th edition will work if you can get it cheaper!)

COURSE SCHEDULE

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIRST CLASS: Read, and be prepared to discuss, Chapters 1 & 2 in Hughes and Cain..

READING HIGHLIGHTS

Class Date & Topics

Session One

3/29 Introduction to the course. Discussion of course requirements. An overview of the "New World". Facets of economic life will be examined.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 1-2

Session Two

4/5 The colonial period through 1791.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 3-5

Session Three

4/19 The emergence of a national economy--the national period.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 6-12

Session Four

4/26 The Civil War and aftermath. Industrialization, big business, urbanization, and agriculture.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 13-14

Session Five

5/10 The robber barons and economic collapse. The great depression and the wisdom of Keynes.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 15-21

Session Six

5/17 WWII and the growth of the U.S. as a super power.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 22-25

Session Seven

5/31 Post-industrial economics. The age of globalization.
Hughes and Cain: Chapters 27-30