

Economics 111B
Spring 2008

American Economic History since the Civil War

Professor Alan L. Olmstead (752-8491)
SSH Room 1127
Office Hours: Wed. 3-4
 Thurs. 9:30-10:30

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Lecture: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:40-3:00 pm in 230 Wellman
Sections: Thursday at (1)7:10-8:00 and (2) 8:10-9:00 in 233 Wellman

Class Web Page:

<http://www.econ.ucdavis.edu/faculty/alolmstead/Econ111B2008/home.html>

Exam Dates:

First exam: Tuesday, April 22

Second exam: Tuesday, May 20

Final: Tuesday, June 10, 10:30-12:30

*There will be no make-up exams

Grading: 20% for each midterm exam, 40% for the final exam; 20% for sections and home work assignments. Additional assignments will be made in the sections. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Course Description:

The topics and readings are designed to give students a look at the broad sweep of American growth with an emphasis on the period since 1866. Economic history attempts to supply a dynamic perspective to help understand institutional, technological, and political changes. The field offers a laboratory for testing key elements of economic theory. You will be exposed to real data. Economics 1A and 1B are prerequisites for this course—you will need a grasp of the ideas taught in those courses. You can expect some changes in the outline and assignments as the quarter develops.

Outline and Readings:

One text, Gary Walton and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy* Tenth Edition (**WR**) is available in the bookstore. Other readings are available on the class webpage and marked (**E**) on the syllabus.

“**HSUS**” refers to: Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, Alan L. Olmstead, Richard Sutch, and Gavin Wright, eds., *Historical Statistics of the United: Millennial Edition*, online version (one hard copy edition is available at the HSS reference desk at Shields Library). You should become familiar with the electronic

edition because there are extra readings and sources here that you will need for your section and homework assignments. HSUS is available to you via a UCD campus connection: <http://uclibs.org/PID/108043>

I. Introduction, A Comparative Perspective of the American Experience
WR: Chapter 1

Joseph A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, Third Edition, New York: Harper & Row, pp. 61-86 (E)

In class assignment for discussion: Write a list of the five most important technological changes that have made your life better.

Section Assignment for week 1, April 3rd:

First day business and introduction to HSUS on line edition—you do not want to miss this.

II. Long Run Growth in Income, Sources of Growth, Wealth, and Welfare
WR: Chapters 28 & 29

Stanley Lebergott, *Wealth and Want*, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1975, pp. 88-107 (E)

Brad Schiller, "The Inequality Myth," *WSJ*, March 18, 2008. (E)

Assignment for Section #2 and Homework #1:

See web, due in class, before the start of lecture, on April 8th

III. The American Dilemma: The Civil War, Race, and the Post War South
WR: Chapter 14

Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell, *A New Economic View of American History* (1994), Ch. 14 on The South after the Civil War, pp. 376-401. (E)

Gavin Wright, *Old South, New South* (1986), Ch. 8 on the new economy of the postwar South, pp. 239-274, notes on 299-303. (E)

First Exam: Tuesday, April 22

IV. The American Population: Demographic Change, Immigration, Working Conditions, the Changing Role of Women.
WR: Chapters 18 Review Chapter 28 & pp. 436-443

Susan B. Carter and Richard Sutch. "Historical Background to Current Immigration Issues", in James P. Smith and Barry Edmondston (eds.), *The Immigration Debate*, 1998. (E)

Homework # 2 due in class before the start of lecture on April 29th. See web for details.

V. Agricultural Development: Technological Change, Farmer Unrest, and Willie Nelson
WR: Chapter 15 & pp. 479-485 & pp. 530-535.

Alan Olmstead and Paul Rhode, "The Transformation of Northern Agriculture 1910-1990," in Stanley Engerman and Robert Gallman (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of the United States, Volume III, The Twentieth Century*, New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 693-742. (E)

Alan Olmstead and Paul Rhode, "The Red Queen and the Hard Reds: Productivity Growth in American Wheat, 1800-1940," *The Journal of Economic History* 62:4. (E)

Second Exam: Tuesday, May 20

Homework # 3 due in class before the start of lecture on May 27th. See web for details

VI. Structural Change During Two Wars: Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the New Deal.

WR: Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

Alan L. Olmstead and Paul W. Rhode, "The Tuberculous Cattle Trust': Disease Contagion in an Era of Regulatory Uncertainty," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 64 (December 2005), 929-63 (E).

VII. Foreign Aid and Nation Building: The Case of the Marshall Plan

J. Bradford DeLong and Barry Eichengreen, "The Marshall Plan: History's Most Successful Structural Adjustment Program," in Rudiger Dornbusch et al., *Postwar Economic Reconstruction and Lessons for the East Today*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993, pp. 189-230. (E)

Final Exam: Tuesday, June 10, 10:30-12:30