

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
Department of Economics

Summer 2009  
ECO 3622 001, American Economic History

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**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, 2:30 - 4:00 pm; or by appointment

**Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the economic history of the United States. The course applies basic economic analysis and reasoning to discuss the evolution of the American economy. Particular attention is paid to how economic forces underlie much of our nation's history as well as how they have led to the development of our nation's economic institutions and policies.

**Text:**

Walton, Gary M. and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy*, 10 ed., (Mason, OH: South-Western, 2005) **required**

Other material available at publisher's website, <http://walton.swlearning.com>

**Grade:**

You will be given four problem sets (10% each), and two exams (30% each). The schedule for distributing these assignments and for the exams is given below. Problem sets are due *one* week after they are distributed. LATE PROBLEM SETS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED NOR WILL MAKE-UP EXAMS BE OFFERED UNLESS SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SHOWN IN ADVANCE TO APPLY. You are encouraged to work with others on the problem sets. If so, then please submit *one* copy of the problem set that includes the name of each group member. Groups of up to five are permitted. Each exam covers only the material taught during the (roughly) one-half of the semester leading up to the exam date.

Problem Sets Available: May 14; May 28; June 18; July 2

Exam Dates: June 11 in class; July 16 in class

**Grading Scale:**

The following shows the *minimum* percentage score needed to earn the associated grade.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
83%	80%	77%	73%	70%	67%	63%	60%	57%	53%	50%

**Rules and Regulations:**

With the exception of the first day of class in which attendance is required in order to retain one's seat in the class, attendance is up to each individual student. However, there is a strong positive correlation between attendance and success in the class. Lectures may be recorded, but neither these recordings nor written lecture notes may be sold or uploaded onto any server.

**Course Web page:**

All course documents are available on Blackboard. This includes pdfs of this syllabus, the problem sets, answers to the problem sets and exams, and study guides. Copies of previous problem sets, exams, their answers, and chapter Power Point files are also available.

**Course Outline:**

All readings are taken from Walton and Rockoff's *History of the American Economy*.

1. The Colonial Era, 1607 – 1776  
*Chs. 3, 4, 6*
2. The Revolutionary, Early National and Antebellum Eras, 1776 – 1860  
*Chs. 7, 9, 10, 12, 13*
3. The Reunification Era, 1860 – 1920  
*Chs. 14, 16, 17, 19*
4. War, Depression, and War Again, 1914 – 1946  
*Chs. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25*
5. The Postwar Era, 1946 – 2008  
*Chs. 26, 27*