

Spring 2005
March 28 to June 1, 2005

University of California, San Diego
Department of History

ECON 158B/ HIUS 141

Economic History of the United States: The Twentieth Century

Instructor: Volker Janssen

Office Hours: H&SS 6025 M 2:00p – 4:00p
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Lecture: CTR 110 MW 5:00p -6:20p
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Course Website: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

This site contains course description, requirements, and materials, the lecture and readings schedule, outlines of past lectures, study guides, and additional materials.

Course Description:

This second part of a two quarter sequence focuses on the nation's economic development from a predominantly agricultural economy to the leading industrial economy in the world, and the more recent changes in the age of information and 'globalization.' The emphasis will lie on the historical logic of the economic growth process, as well as the social and political tensions that accompanied economic expansion in the U.S. The class will foster an understanding of the roles private business, labor, and the state played in American economic growth and decline, and illustrate the connections between science & technology, politics, social change and economic change. The class will emphasize the meaning of economic life as a history not of things, but of people.

Traditionally cross-listed in history and economics, the course offers economics students a rare insight into historical experiences that underlie their subject. History students will experience a systematic approach to the economic processes so central to understanding the diversity of American life. However, students do NOT require any previous course work in economics or statistics.

Course Requirements:

The lectures will complement rather than duplicate the readings. Regular attendance will be crucial for the successful completion of the course. While this is predominantly a lecture course, there will be time for discussion.

Students will have to show a good faith effort in ALL three requirements:

1. A midterm worth 30 percent of the course grade consisting of multiple choice questions and short I.D.s,
2. A three hour final exam worth 40 percent of the course grade consisting of multiple choice questions, short I.D.s, and two essay questions.
3. A choice of either of the following, worth 30 percent:
 - a.) Regular attendance and participation in one of the four discussion sections offered by the Teaching Assistants.
 - b.) A 10 page review essay on two to three books chosen with the help and consent of the instructor.

Make-up exams will not be offered, unless there are extraordinary circumstances such as medical difficulties or family emergencies.

Course Material:

Next to attending lecture, keeping up with the assigned readings is the most important step towards a successful completion of the course. Students will benefit from finishing all or at least the textbook readings *prior* to the corresponding lectures.

Textbook

- Gary Walton and Hugh Rockoff, History of the American Economy. Ninth/Tenth Edition, Southwestern 2002.

Used copies of the ninth edition of this textbook are available at the UCSD Bookstore in the Price Center. While the Geisel Library will hold a limited number on reserve, the purchase of the textbook is recommended.

- Michael A. Bernstein and Davide E. Adler (eds.) Understanding American Economic Decline. New York [Cambridge University Press] 1994.

This book is currently out of stock. The UCSD Bookstore has produced copied packages of the essays assigned from this volume, which are available for purchase. The Geisel Library will hold a limited number of this volume on reserve as well.

Essay and Source Collection

- Course Reader, ECON 158B/HIUS141 Economic History of the United States: The Twentieth Century, University Readers Course Publishing 2004.

This collection of original documents and essays will be **AVAILABLE AFTER LECTURE DURING THE FIRST WEEK ONLY**. Purchase of the course reader is essential for completing the required readings.

Additional Materials

Maps, Images, statistical data, and charts will become available on the course website following their introduction in lecture, usually in the form of copied handouts.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1:

- I. March 28 Introduction: The Meaning of Economic History, Income Account, Neo-Classical and Neo-Keynesian Approaches
- II. March 30 Nineteenth Century Legacies: Agriculture, Manufacturing, Financial Institutions

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 18 – The Emergence of America’s Labor Consciousness, pp.348-366.
 - Chapter 19 – Money, Prices, and Finance in the Postbellum Era, pp. 369-387.
- **Reader**
 - Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., “The Integration of Mass Production with Mass Distribution: The Coming of the Modern Industrial Corporation,” Excerpts from: The Visible Hand. The Managerial Revolution in American Business, p.5.
 - Herbert Gutman, “Immigrants Adjust to Industrial Labor, ‘Clock Time,’ and Unionization in the Early Twentieth Century,” Excerpt from Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America, p.21.

Week 2:

- III. April 4 Labor, Capital, Consumers, and American Foreign Expansion
- IV. April 6 The Rise of Corporate Liberalism

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 20 – Commerce at Home and Abroad, pp. 391-410.
- **Reader**
 - Emily S. Rosenberg, "Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945." Excerpts, p.1.
 - James Weinstein, “The National Civic Federation and the Concept of Consensus,” Excerpt from The Corporate Ideal and the Liberal State: 1900-1918, p.27.
 - Frederick Winslow Taylor Explains the Principles of Scientific Management, 1916, p.47.

Week 3:

- V. April 11 World War I and Economic Dominion
- VI. April 13 The Roaring Twenties I: The New Era of Prosperity

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 21 – World War I, pp.416-428.
 - Chapter 22 – The Roaring Twenties, pp.430-449.
- **Reader**
 - A Union Organizer Testifies to Vigilante Attack, 1917, p.51.
 - Carroll Pursell, "The Decade of Prosperity and Consumption," Excerpt from The Machine in America: A Social History of Technology, p.53.

Week 4:

- VII. April 18 The Roaring Twenties II: Its Problems and Discontents
- VIII. April 20 Instability and Crisis: The Great Depression

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 23 – The Great Depression, pp.452-470.
- **Reader**
 - Steven Stoll, "A Chemical Shield." Chapter 4 from The Fruits of Natural Advantage. Making the Industrial Countryside in California, p.67.
 - Business Leader Henry Ford Advocates Self-Help, 1932, p.65.
 - Michael A. Bernstein, "Why the Great Depression Was Great: Toward a New Understanding of the Interwar Economic Crisis in the United States." in Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle (eds.), The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-1980, p.95.

Week 5:

- IX. April 25 State Intervention: The New Deal
- X. April 27 MIDTERM

READINGS:

○ **Walton and Rockoff**

- Chapter 24 – The New Deal, 473-492.

○ **Reader**

- The Wagner Act Allows Workers to Unionize, 1935, p.107.
- E. Cary Brown, “Fiscal Policy in the Thirties: A Reappraisal.” in The American Economic Review, December 1956 46(5), 857-879, p.111
- Social Security Advisers Consider Male and Female Pensioners, 1938, p.109.

Week 6:

- XI. May 2 World War II: Guns and Butter
- XII. May 4 Reconstruction and the Foundations of the American Century

READINGS:

○ **Walton and Rockoff**

- Chapter 25 – World War II, pp.494-514.
- Chapter 26 – The Changing Role of the Federal Government pp. 520-524.
- Chapter 27 – Government Business Cycle after World War II, pp. 544-550.

○ **Reader**

- Roger Lotchin, “San Diego and the Continued Quest for Military Riches.” Excerpt from Fortress California, 1910-1961: From Warfare to Welfare, p.163.
- Thomas J. Sugrue, “The Damning Mark of False Prosperities: The Deindustrialization of Detroit,” Excerpts from The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit, p.135

Week 7:

- XIII. May 9 Cold War Economics: The Military Industrial Complex
- XIV. May 11 A Consumer’s Republic: The Corporate Commonwealth

READINGS:

○ **Walton and Rockoff**

- Chapter 26 – The Changing Role of the Federal Government. pp.524-528.

○ **Bernstein and Adler**

- David M. Gordon, “Chickens home to roost: from prosperity to stagnation in the postwar economy.” pp.34-76.
- **Reader**
 - President Eisenhower Warns of the Military Industrial Complex, 1961, p.161.
 - David Noble, “Command Performance: A Perspective on the Social and Economic Consequences of Military Enterprise.” in Merrit Roe Smith, Military Enterprise and Technological Change, p.151.

Week 8:

- XV. May 16 The Rise and Fall of the Keynesian Welfare State
- XVI. May 18 Stagflation

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 27 – Government and the Business Cycle after World War II. pp.550-557.
- **Bernstein and Adler**
 - Michael A. Bernstein, “Understanding American economic decline: the contours of the late twentieth-century experience.” pp.3-33.
 - Jane Knodell, “Financial institutions and contemporary economic performance.” pp.114-160.
- **Reader**
 - Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, “The Great Society and Relief: Federal Intervention.” Excerpts from Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare, p.175.

Week 9:

- XVII. May 23 The Empire Unravels: From Nixon to Reagan
- XVIII. May 25 The Reagan Revolution

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 26 – The Changing Role of the U.S. Government. 528-535.
 - Chapter 27 – Government and the Business Cycle after World War II. pp.557-560.
 - Chapter 28 – Manufacturing, Productivity, and Labor. pp.565-580.

- **Bernstein and Adler**
 - David M. Gordon, Thomas E. Weiskopf, and Samuel Bowles, “Right-wing economics in the 1980s: the anatomy of failure.” pp.243-275.
 - M.V. Badgett and Rhonda M. Williams, “The changing contours of discrimination: race, gender, and structural economic change.” pp.313-329.
- **Reader)**
 - The Secretary of Labor Applauds Deregulation of Home Work, 1988, p.195.
 - Immigrants Do “Home Work” in Modern Sweatshops, 1988, p.195.

Week 10:

- XIX. May 30 Memorial Day
- XX. June 1 Wealth without Prosperity: The Price of Asymmetrical Globalization

READINGS:

- **Walton and Rockoff**
 - Chapter 28 – Manufacturing, Productivity, and Labor. pp.580-589.
 - Chapter 29 – Achievements of the Past, Challenges for the Future. pp.600-604.
- **Bernstein and Adler**
 - Katherine S. Newman, “Troubled times: the cultural dimensions of economic decline.” pp.330-357.
- **Reader**
 - Barbara Ehrenreich, “Working Poor Blues,” Excerpt from Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America, p.197.
 - Robert P. Weiss, "'Repatriating' Low Wage Work: The Policital Economy of Prison Labor Reprivatization in the Postindustrial United States," in Criminology 39(2), 2001, p.203.

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