SYLLABUS: 4333.001 - Business and Economic History

INSTRUCTOR: Scott A. Carson, Ph.D.

OFFICE: MB 2254

CLASS HOURS: 12:30pm-1:45pm, T, H

OFFICE HOURS: T, H, 2:00-3:00pm; M, W, 3:30-4:30pm; or by appointment. I prefer by appointment. I am frequently in the library, Room 240 or the copy center. Feel free to track me down in the library, but do not ask the librarians where I am.

OFFICE PHONE: 432-552-2195

E-MAIL: carson_s@utpb.edu

CURRENT SEMESTER: Fall 2011

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course covers the transformation of the United States from a rural, agricultural colony to a major industrial nation and its impact on households, firms, and governmental units. It emphasizes economic growth and the evolution of the modern corporation.

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S): Economics 2301 or Economics 2302

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the critical nature of property rights in economic growth, technological improvement and improving standards of living.
2. Consider the market process and how if evolved.
3. Understand American living standards and how they have changed throughout American history.
4. Alternative measures for standards of living beyond traditional measures, such as income and wages.
5. Trends in American mortality and anthropometric history.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOK:


COURSE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS:

You are graded on your performance on the following assignments,

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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Research Paper: You will conduct a 5 page, double spaced research paper of your own original research. You can cover the economic history of a geographic area or a subject. This can be an in-depth study of original material or a survey of the existing literature. Due: November 15, 2007.

Grades are assigned according to your point accumulation relative to the class high. Grades are assigned according to the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

When legal code is necessary to maintain academic honesty and social interaction, social bounds of reciprocity are eliminated. Ergo, it is expected that the highest forms of honesty and respect for others be adhered too. Outside of that, the University expects a student to maintain a high standard of individual honor in all scholastic work (Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents). Detailed information on scholastic dishonesty along with disciplinary procedures is outlined in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, Part 5, Section 1, and the Student Guide.

STUDENT CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

Be nice. Failure to be cool with me, the instructor, or other students may adversely affect your grade. If you sometimes feel like you're stepping over the lines of social decorum, you probably
are, so step back and reevaluate, because it may detract from our classroom environment. Other than that, let's just hang out and learn as much as we can this semester.

I have also noticed a disturbing trend among students, and the best way I can think to address it comes from a Helen Keller quote.

*Small minds talk about people.*
*Average minds talk about events*
*Great minds talk about ideas.*

Robert the Bruce wanted a brave heart, and we should want great minds, so let's devote ourselves to thinking and talking about great ideas.

**TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**

**Course Outline**

**Section I**

1. Economic History as a Methodology
   A. McCloskey, Dierdre. "Does the past have useful economics?"

2. Property Rights
   A. North, Douglass, and Robert Thomas. *Rise of the Western World: A New Economic History*. Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4
   B. Course Notes

3. Indentured Servitude
   A. Galenson, David. "The Rise and Fall of Indentured Servitude"

4. Revolutionary Period

5. Jacksonian Era
   A. Temin, Peter. The Jacksonian Economy.

6. Slavery
   D. Fogel, Robert W. and Stanley Engerman "Explaining the relative efficiency of slave agriculture in the Antebellum south."
Section 2

1. Reconstruction
   B. Wright, Gavin. "The economic revolution in the American South."

2. Migration
   A. Steckel, "East West Migration"


4. Antropometrics.
   A. Tanner, James. "Introduction: Growth in Height as a Mirror of the Standard of Living."
   B. Fogel, Robert W. "New findings about trends in life expectation and chronic diseases: The implications for health costs and pensions."
   E. Fogel, Robert. "Can we afford longevity?"
     http://www.gsb.uchicago.edu/news/capideas/fall98/fogel.html

5. Mortality

Section 3

1. The Rise of Corporate America
   A. Atack, Jeremy. "Industrial structure and the emergence of the modern industrial corporation."

2. Banking
   B. Rockoff, Hugh. "The Wizard of Oz as a monetary allegory."

3. Markets
   A. Federal Reserve papers

4. The Great Depression
Reader List


Last Day to Drop: TBA
Final Exam Information: TBA

This is a tentative syllabus and outline. I reserve the right to make changes. However, all changes will be announced in class. If you miss a day, you are responsible to be informed of any changes to this syllabus.