



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2021 Winter Program

ECON 340 American Economic History I

Course Outline

Course Code: ECON 340

Instructor: George Sarraf

Home Institution: University of California, Irvine

Office Hours: By appointment

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Credit: 4

Course Description:

This course examines the development of the American economy from colonial time to the present. Topics include changes in institutions, standards of living, income distributions, social mobility, labor markets, demographic structure, technological development, and the financial system. The course will be divided into three components: (1) Long run trends in the American economy, (2) the history of American labor, and (3) studies of some specific sectors of the American economy (finance, transportation, etc.).

Required Textbooks:

An Economic History of the United States by Mark V. Siegler.

Lectures:

Lectures are designed to clearly explain the concepts covered in the handouts and how they apply to real world situations. Lectures will be asynchronous and pre-recorded and posted online (LMS) or emailed to the class. Outlines of the lecture notes will be made available to students online or via emails.

Assignments:

Assignments will be posted online or emailed to students.

Paper:

Students will choose a specific topic of interest and write to analyze in the paper. The paper must be a sustained piece of writing and not purely descriptive. It should be properly documented, and



address opposing arguments. Students should present an outline of their paper to the instructor first, followed by a further discussion about the focus and direction of the paper. Further announcements to be made during the term.

Exams:

There will be one midterm, and a final. Exams will be open book. Students can also use their own notes to answer the exam questions.

Grading Breakdown:

Assignments: 15%
Paper 25%
Midterm: 30%
Final: 30%

Grading & Evaluation:

A+:4.3	95-100	A:4.0	87-94	A-:3.7	82-86
B+:3.3	78-81	B:3.0	75-77	B-:2.7	71-74
C+:2.3	68-70	C:2.0	65-67	C-:1.7	61-64
D:1.0	55-60	E:0.0	49-54		

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Chapters
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus and introduction Introduction to U.S. economic history Standards of living an American economic growth Institutional Foundations 	Ch. 1 Ch. 2 Ch. 4
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial system and capital accumulation Population and population growth Transportation and communication Manufacturing and industrialization 	Ch. 5 Ch. 7 Ch. 8 Ch. 10
Week 3	Midterm Exam	1,2,4,7,8 & 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Labor and labor markets Segregation and discrimination 	Ch. 11 Ch. 12 Ch. 14
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of income and wealth Immigration and immigration policies The growth of government 	Ch. 13 Ch. 15 Ch. 16
	Final Exam	11-16