

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Department of Economics

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER:

ECON 490: American Economic History (3 credits)

TERM:

Spring 2018

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Isaac DiIanni (idianni@illinois.edu)

OFFICE:

1207 W. Oregon St., Rm. 312

OFFICE HOURS:

Priority given to issues involving this course:

Wed. 10:00am – 12:00pm

Priority given to issues outside the scope of this course:

Thurs. 2:00pm – 4:00pm

CLASS DAYS & TIME:

Section E3, CRN 61881: TR 11:00am – 12:20pm

LOCATION:

119 David Kinley Hall

PREREQUISITES:

ECON 102 and ECON 302 (or equivalent).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of the history of the American economy from the colonial era to the present. We will study the features and development of the American economy and examine the watershed events that have transformed it over its history.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

The primary form of assigned reading material will be academic journal articles posted on the Compass site for the course. The response paper prompts will be made up of questions based on these articles.

In addition to the articles that are required to answer specific questions, there will also be a number of supplementary readings. These will include other academic articles, and also textbook chapters. The recommended textbook for this course is *A New Economic View of American History* by Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell. Another good textbook, in addition to or instead of the Atack and Passell book, is *History of the American Economy* by Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff. These supplementary readings—both articles and textbook chapters—are optional in the sense that they are not strictly necessary in order to satisfactorily complete the response papers. However, I do encourage you to use them, because they provide background information, alternative viewpoints, and related material to round out your education and improve your understanding of the material that is being assessed in both the response papers and the exams.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Punctuality and attendance at every class meeting is crucial for successful completion of this course. Letter grades will be assigned only at the end of the semester based on the calculation described below. There is no curve in this class.

Assessment will consist of seven response papers, one midterm exam, and one comprehensive final exam. The response papers are intended to assess how well you learned the material covered in the assigned readings, while the exams are intended to assess how well you learned the material covered in lecture (although of course there will be significant overlap in terms of subject matter).

At the end of the semester the lowest response paper score will be dropped before the average is calculated (please see “Response Paper Policy” below). This will be an ordinary arithmetic mean; the top six response paper scores will be equally weighted. This will be the Response Paper Grade Subtotal.

At the end of the semester the midterm and final exam scores will be used to calculate a weighted arithmetic mean, with the midterm weighted at 40% and the final exam weighted at 60%. This will be the Exam Grade Subtotal.

If your Exam Grade Subtotal is below 60% then you will receive an F for the course, no matter what your Response Paper Grade Subtotal is. Note that the Exam Grade Subtotal is not rounded. For example, if your Exam Grade Subtotal is 59.9999% you will receive an F for the course.

If your Exam Grade Subtotal is greater than or equal to 60%, then the Exam Grade Subtotal and the Response Paper Grade Subtotal will be equally weighted and an ordinary arithmetic mean calculated. This will then be rounded to the nearest integer. This will be the Course Grade. Your letter grade in the course will be assigned based on the grading scale in the table below. For example, if the mean of your Exam Grade Subtotal and Response Paper Grade Subtotal is 79.4, this will be rounded to 79, which is a C+ in the course (not a B-).

| | | | | | | | |
|------|----------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| A+ : | 97 – 100 | B+ : | 87 – 89 | C+ : | 77 – 79 | D+ : | 67 – 69 |
| A : | 93 – 96 | B : | 83 – 86 | C : | 73 – 76 | D : | 63 – 66 |
| A- : | 90 – 92 | B- : | 80 – 82 | C- : | 70 – 72 | D- : | 60 – 62 |
| | | | | | | F : | 0 – 59 |

If your Exam Grade Subtotal is greater than or equal to 60%, then the following represents the impact of each assignment on your Course Grade:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Response Papers: | approx. 8.3334% each x 6 = | 50% |
| Midterm Exam: | | 20% |
| Final Exam: | | 30% |
| Total: | | <u>100%</u> |

(But remember: if your Exam Grade Subtotal is less than 60% then you will simply receive an F in the course, and these weights will not apply.)

ASSESSMENT POLICIES – PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY:

Response Paper Policy

Response Papers will be administered through this course's Compass 2G site. There will be seven assignments due at various times throughout the semester. Please see the Compass site for due dates and instructions on how to complete them. Assignments must be submitted by the due date in order to be graded. Assignments submitted late will receive a grade of zero. No excuses will be accepted, including for technological problems. To avoid difficulties in this area please submit your assignments well before the deadline. It is your responsibility to learn how to use Compass and submit your answers correctly. At the end of the semester, the lowest Response Paper score will be dropped before the average is calculated.

Midterm Exam Absence Policy

If you do not take the midterm exam for any reason, the weight of the missed exam will be shifted to the final exam. You do not need to do anything in particular to take advantage of this policy. The weight of the missed exam will be automatically shifted at the end of the semester during the calculation of your final grade for the course. Please note that if you are present at the exam room and the exams have been distributed, you are considered to be taking the exam and your grade will not be shifted, even if you change your mind and leave early. So if you are deciding whether or not to take the midterm exam you must make your decision before the exams are distributed. This policy is not a curve or an opportunity to drop low exam grades.

This policy is intended for people who have illnesses, emergencies, or other conflicts, and must miss the midterm exam as a result. Accordingly, I recommend only skipping the midterm exam when truly necessary.

Final Exam Policies

The final exam for this course has been scheduled according to the official Non-Combined Scheduling Guidelines published by the university (<http://www.fms.uiuc.edu/finalexams/>). There is no conflict exam scheduled for the final exam in this course.

More Than Two Consecutive Final Examinations

The UIUC Student Code § 3-201(a)(5) provides for students who have “more than two consecutive examinations” (http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3_part2_3-201.html). Please read these rules. In particular, note that the only situation in which having more than two consecutive exams will result in a makeup exam being offered for this course is if:

1. You actually have more than two consecutive exams (note that the rule is not “three exams within 24 hours”). § 3-201(a)(5)
2. You bring the issue to my attention before the last day of classes. § 3-201(a)(5)
3. None of the instructors of these consecutive exams offer a conflict exam. § 3-201(a)(5)(B)
4. This course has the largest number of students. § 3-201(a)(5)(C)

If you intend to request a makeup final exam on this basis, you must contact each of the instructors of the other courses with exams consecutive with this one and ask them to send me an email confirming the date and time of the final exam, the fact that a conflict final exam is not offered, and the number of students enrolled in the course. Please Cc me on this email to facilitate my communication with the other instructors.

Conflicting Final Exam Times

The UIUC Student Code § 3-201(a)(6) explains the rules regarding priority of exams in the case of a conflict. Note that top priority is given to national and state professional examinations. If you will take such an exam, and it conflicts with my final exam time, please contact me by the last day of class and I will schedule a makeup exam for you.

The next highest priority is given to noncombined final exams (“A noncombined course examination has precedence over any combined-sections or conflict examination” § 3-201(a)(6)(B)). That is what this course’s final examination is. Occasionally another course offers a combined-sections or other specially scheduled final exam at the same time as the exam for this course. University policy requires the instructor of the other course to offer you a conflict final exam that does not coincide with your exam in this class.

Absence From the Final Exam

The UIUC Student Code § 3-201(b) describes the university’s policy on absences from the final exam. If you plan to be absent from the final exam for this course, you must apply to the dean of your college to have your grade entered as “I” (incomplete). If you are absent from the final exam and the dean’s office has not entered an “I” grade for you, I will report your grade in the course as ABS, which “counts as a failure” § 3-201(b)(2).

Note that only the dean’s office can enter a grade of “I” (see § 3-104). This option is not available to instructors. The decision to grant an “I” to a student is entirely in the hands of the dean’s office; it is not my decision. If the dean’s office does not grant your request for an “I” grade and you are absent from the final exam, I will report a grade of ABS.

If you are granted an “I” grade, you must take a makeup final exam the following semester. These makeup examinations are held on a date scheduled by the Department of Economics—typically the first Friday of each semester.

For more details about the rules regarding “I” grades, please see § 3-104 (http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3_part1_3-104.html).

General Exam Policies

For each exam, you need to bring a pencil, an eraser, and your student ID card. No outside material (e.g. textbooks, notes, etc.) is allowed during the exam. Cell phones are not permitted in the exam room. If we see your cell phone, you will be considered to be cheating. By taking an exam you consent to be video and audio recorded while in the examination room.

RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM:

As members of the University community, students share in the obligation to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Accordingly, students are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any class. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result, at a minimum, in a request to leave class. Such behavior also violates the Student Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

You are expected to abide by the Student Code rules regarding academic integrity. Violations of the rules on academic integrity typically result in an F for the course. For details about the rules and what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please see the Student Code §1 402 (http://www.admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article1_part4_1-402.html). Please note that “Regardless of whether a student has actually read this Part, a student is charged with knowledge of it. Ignorance is not a defense.” (§1 401.a.1)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or e-mail a message to disability@uiuc.edu. Special testing accommodations will only be provided through the DRES Testing Accommodation Center, so if you need accommodations please make sure you register with DRES and get your official letter of accommodation as soon as possible.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE:

Dates and material covered may change. The required and recommended readings are posted on the Compass site for the course.

The midterm exam will take place during the normally scheduled lecture time and in your normal classroom (it is possible, though very unlikely, that this may change).

The final exam time and date for this course will follow the Non-Combined Scheduling Guidelines published by the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.illinois.edu/final-exam-schedule-public>). **The location of the final exam will be updated when it becomes available.**

- Lesson 1: Preliminaries (1/16, 1/18)
- Lesson 2: Colonial and Antebellum America (1/23, 1/25, 1/30, 2/1, 2/6)
- Lesson 3: The Civil War and Industrialization (2/8, 2/13, 2/15, 2/20, 2/22)
- Lesson 4: The Progressive Movement and Ideological Change (2/27, 3/1, 3/6)
- **MIDTERM EXAM: Thursday, 3/8**
- Lesson 5: The Regulatory State (3/13, 3/15, [Spring Break 3/17 – 3/25], 3/27, 3/29, 4/3, 4/5, 4/10)
- Lesson 6: War and Depression (4/12, 4/17, 4/19, 4/24)
- Lesson 7: From the Cold War to the Present (4/26, 5/1)
- **FINAL EXAM: 8:00AM on Tuesday, 5/8 in DKH 119**