



LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

HIST 299 Economic History of the United States

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2010

Credit: 3 units
Instructor: Dr. Alexander Varum
Office Hours: By appointment
e-mail: alexvarum@lincolnuca.edu
Schedule: Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:45 AM

Course Description:

This course explores the evolution of capitalism in British North America and the United States from 1607 to the present. We will move chronologically through major topics that engage social, cultural, political, and institutional dimensions of business evolution and economic growth and welfare.

Assignments:

Reading and class participation: Each student is expected to complete all readings and to participate actively in class discussions. Class participation will comprise 20 percent of the course grade.

Assignments will be provided by the instructor throughout the semester.

Policy on absences and late assignments: If you need to miss or come late to class, Please inform the instructor beforehand if possible. Written assignments turned in late will be penalized one full grade per 24 hour period unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

Textbooks:

Texts: History of the American Economy 11th Edition
Gary Walton, Hugh Rockoff
ISBN-10: 0-324-78662-X
ISBN-13: 978-0-324-78662-0

Available online at reduced cost

Supplemental materials will be provided throughout the course by instructor.

Course Requirements:

To successfully complete HIS 299, students are required to read all the readings, participate fully in class, take all midterms, and pass the final examination. Students are encouraged to form groups to exchange ideas and reflect upon readings, but each is required to do all the required reading.

For some classes, students will be assigned to do presentations on the assigned readings or related projects. The purpose of these presentations is not to summarize the content of the readings. Each presentation will consist of two major components. First, the presenter will indicate how ideas in that particular reading relate to others covered in class. Second, the presenter will raise critical questions about the reading for class discussion. Each presenter will prepare and distribute in class a one-page outline highlighting major arguments of his or her presentation.

Two closed book mid-term exams will each constitute 25% of your grade.

A closed book final exam will constitute 30% of your grade.

This syllabus is an invitation to you as a student to engage in an exciting and interactive study of world history. It is my intention to provide a collaborative and supportive learning environment where students learn from one another both in and out of the classroom.

Student Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

Demonstrate that they have gained the basic, factual material on U.S. Economic History;
Identify foundational developments that helped shape the U.S. economic system as discussed in the text and assigned readings.
Demonstrate that he/she has an understanding of the prominent economic, political, and social policies of the period;
Demonstrate that they have improved their analytical and communications skills.

The Course Structure:

The course is structured in the form of lectures, discussions, two midterm exams, assignments, and a final exam.

Requirements:

Every student must participate in classroom activity. Students must complete all assignments and take all quizzes, mid-terms exams and final exam on the dates listed. Plagiarism will result in a grade of F and will be reported to the administration.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend each class session. If you cannot attend a class due to a valid reason, please notify the instructor.

Exams:

All of the exams consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. All answers must be clear with a presentation of how the student came up with the answer on essay questions. Exams are closed book.

Grading:

The grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Mid-Term Exams	50%
Final Exam	30%
Presentations, Quizzes and Participation	20%