

Econ 5470: Industrialization and Economic Development: The American Case

Spring 2006

BUC 107

T H 10:45 – 12:05.

Professor Maloney

Office: 318 KDGB

Office Phone: 581-7704

Dept Phone: 581-7481

Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:00, Wednesday 1:00-2:30, and by appointment

E-Mail: maloney@economics.utah.edu

In this class, we will study growth and change in the US economy from the colonial period to the present. While this course is to a great degree a "survey," or a broad overview, of these issues, we will give particular emphasis to the study of labor markets, demography, the standard of living, and economic inequality.

The core of the lecture material will be organized around our **primary text, Atack and Passell, *A New Economic View of American History***. We will read and discuss most of this book. We will also read **Levy, *The New Dollars and Dreams* (Sage, 1998)**. We will discuss the Levy book during the last two weeks of class. Both of these books are available in the bookstore. In addition, we will read several journal articles and book chapters, which will be available through the course WebCT page. Because I will also present a considerable amount of material that is not specifically available in any of these sources, it is important to attend class regularly and to take good notes.

Research and Writing Assignments:

In addition to our study of the general course material, each student will choose one particular topic for detailed, individual study. Throughout the semester, each student will pursue their chosen topic through a "critical review" of a piece of research and through an original research paper. Both of these assignments involve several steps:

For the critical review assignment, students will

- Turn in a proposal for the critical review, including (1) identification of a general area of interest that will be pursued in both the critical review and the research paper, and (2) full citation of one particular piece (a journal article or book chapter) for which the student will turn in a critical review of about 5 to 7 pages. This citation should include a brief (three or four sentence) description of the contents of the piece (topic and cite due 2/7)
- Write a rough draft of the critical review, participate in a "peer evaluation" of these drafts, and revise the draft based on this peer evaluation (peer evaluation in class on 2/21)
- Turn in final drafts of these reviews, including a copy of the peer evaluation of your draft, along with a brief statement indicating how you have revised your critical review in response to this evaluation (due 2/28). You must also submit your final draft electronically to our class file at Turnitin.com.

For the research paper assignment, students will

- Turn in a written proposal for a 10 to 15 page research paper, including (1) identification of a narrow topic to be pursued in the paper, and (2) a list of likely sources, including a full citation and brief description of the contents of each source and its likely usefulness for the final paper (proposal due 3/9)

- Write a rough draft of the research paper and participate in a “peer evaluation” of these drafts (in class on 4/4)
- Turn in a rough draft of the final paper for evaluation by the instructor (due on 4/4)
- Turn in the final draft of the final paper, including a brief statement indicating how you have revised your paper in response to comments from the instructor (final draft due 4/18). You must also submit your final draft electronically to our class file at Turnitin.com.

More detail on this set of assignments will be given in class. Announcements, due dates, and other information will occasionally be posted on the course WebCT page.

Econ 3905 ("Modes of Learning"):

Econ 3905 is a one-credit course which provides additional instruction in writing research papers and essays in economics. It is **not** necessary to register for Econ 3905 to fulfill the communication requirement (successful completion of Econ 5470 fulfills the requirement). Nonetheless, some students will find enrolling in Econ 3905 useful, both because it will provide an additional hour of credit and because it will give you access to resources which will help you improve your writing and thereby improve your grade in Econ 5470 (and in other classes).

Econ 6470 (Graduate Section):

Students planning to use this course for graduate credit must register for Econ 6470 (rather than Econ 5470). Also, you must see me early in the semester to discuss additional work that will be required for graduate credit.

Grading:

1. Exams:

There will be two mid-term exams and a final. All will be a mix of short answer and essay questions. (Essays will count for about 2/3 of the points on each exam.) The final will include some comprehensive material but will emphasize material from the final third of the semester. Exams will be based on the reading and our discussion in class. The first mid-term is worth 15% of your final grade. The second mid-term and the final are each worth 20% of your grade. **The first mid-term will be held on 2/9. The second mid-term will be held on 3/28. The final will be held on Friday, 4/28, from 10:30 to 12:30 am. You are responsible for clearing your schedule so that you will be present for the exams. In very rare cases of unavoidable scheduling conflict, accommodations may be made. However, you must notify me of any such conflicts prior to the exam.**

2. Writing assignments:

As described above, there are two major writing assignments - a 5-7 page critical review, which is worth 15 percent of your grade (due on 2/28), and a final 10-15 page paper, which is worth 20 percent of your grade (due on 4/18). In addition, you will turn in a general topic area and a full citation for the piece that you will critically review on 2/7, a rough draft of your critical review on 2/21, a research paper proposal on 3/9, and a rough draft of your paper on 4/4. 5 percent of your grade will be based on your turning in these intermediate assignments on time and participating in the discussion of all of these assignments. **YOU MUST BRING TWO COPIES OF THE CRITICAL REVIEW ROUGH DRAFT ON 2/21 AND TWO COPIES OF THE FINAL PAPER ROUGH DRAFT ON 4/4.**

3. Class participation: Each student will help lead the discussion of one of the “additional readings” (readings other than Atack and Passell and Levy). On the day that we are to discuss one of these readings, students who are well-prepared to discuss that reading should hand me a piece of paper with their name on it at the beginning of class. By doing so, these students will indicate that they are ready to be called on to provide fairly specific commentary on these readings. You do not need to prepare any written comments. I will generally circulate (via WebCT) some questions to help focus your thoughts a day or two before we discuss each reading. This assignment is worth 5 percent of your grade.

So the composition of your final grade looks like this:

- Research paper: 20%
- Critical review: 15%
- Other components of the writing assignment (proposals, drafts, peer reviews, etc.): 5%
- First mid-term: 15%
- Second mid-term: 20%
- Final exam: 20%
- “Class Participation”: 5%

The University of Utah Department of Economics seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodation in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services (<http://disability.utah.edu/>, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020) to make arrangements for accommodations.

Topics and Schedule

The dates for specific readings and topics may change, but exam dates and due dates for assignments will not change.

T 1/10 to Th 1/12:

Introduction

Overview of Technological Change and Growth in Great Britain and the US

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Introduction and Chapter 1

Sokoloff and Engerman, “History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World,” Journal of Economic Perspectives 14:3 (Summer 2000).

T 1/17 to Th 1/19:

Colonial Economic History

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 2

Henretta, “Families and Farms: Mentalite in Pre-Industrial America,” William and Mary Quarterly 35:1 (January 1978).

T 1/24 to Th 1/26:

Early Industrialization in the US

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 7

Sokoloff, "Inventive Activity in Early Industrial America: Evidence from Patent Records, 1790-1846," Journal of Economic History December 1988 (48:4), p. 813-850.

T 1/31 to T 2/14:

Demography and US Economic History, Part I: Fertility, Mortality, and Health

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, chapter 8, p. 212-228

Steckel, "Stature and the Standard of Living," Journal of Economic Literature December 1995 (33:4), p. 1903-1940.

T 2/7: General Research Topic Area and Complete Article Citation for Critical Review Due

Th 2/9: First Mid-Term Exam

T 2/16 to T 2/21:

Demography and US Economic History, Part II: Immigration

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, chapter 8, p. 229-245

T 2/21 Draft of Critical Review Due

Th 2/23 to Th 3/2:

Slavery, the Civil War, and the South

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, chapters 11, 12, and 14

Hanes, "Turnover Cost and the Distribution of Slave Labor in Anglo-America," Journal of Economic History 56:2 (June 1996).

T 2/28: Critical Review (Final Draft) Due

T 3/7:

19th Century Wealth Inequality

Th 3/9:

19th Century Capital Accumulation and Change in Industrial Structure

READINGS:

Atack and Passell chapter 17

McCurdy, "American Law and the Marketing Structure of the Large Corporation, 1875-1890," Journal of Economic History 38:3 (September 1978).

Th 3/9: Research Paper Proposal Due

Note: No Class T 3/14 or Th 3/16 (Spring Break)

T 3/21:

Continue with 19th Century Capital Accumulation and Change in Industrial Structure

Th 3/23

Late 19th Century Labor Markets

READINGS:

Atack and Passell chapter 19

Keyssar, Out of Work: The First Century of Unemployment in Massachusetts (1986),
chapter 2: "The Social Origins of Unemployment."

T 3/28: Second Mid-Term Exam

Th 3/30

Female Labor in the 20th Century

T 4/4:

African American Labor in the 20th Century

READINGS:

Maloney, "African Americans in the Twentieth Century," in Whaples, ed., EH.Net
Encyclopedia.

T 4/4: Rough Draft of Research Paper Due

Th 4/6:

The Great Depression and The New Deal

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 21 to 22

T 4/11:

The Rise of the Public Sector

READINGS:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 23

Higgs, "Crisis, Bigger Government, and Ideological Change: Two Hypotheses on the
Ratchet Phenomenon," Explorations in Economic History 22:1 (January 1985).

Th 4/13 to T 4/25:

Late 20th Century Performance of the US Economy

READINGS:

Gordon, "Two Centuries of Economic Growth: Europe Chasing the American Frontier,"
NBER Working Paper No. 10662, August 2004.

Levy, The New Dollars and Dreams

T 4/18: Final Paper Due

F 4/28: FINAL EXAM, 10:30-12:30 AM, BUC 107