

**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT**

Instructor: Holly Sue Hatfield – please call me Holly (pronouns: she, her hers)

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Office hours: by appointment

Econ 1740-001

3 credit hours

Fall 2021

U.S. Economic History

Mon/Weds 1:25-2:45, BEH auditorium

Official course description

What explains the growth and development of the US economy from a primarily agricultural region to the leading global industrial powerhouse? In this class, we study the history of the US economy and draw lessons from this history for our contemporary economic and policy challenges, including inequality, immigration, income stagnation, and the economic role of the public sector. The class is aimed at students who are not (yet) economics majors. In addition to gaining a greater understanding of US history, students will be introduced to fundamental economic concepts, models, and evidence. (Fulfills general education *American Institutions AI* credit)

Course objectives

By the end of the semester, a student can expect to

1. Identify everyday issues that are economic in nature, and explain why they are economic
2. Trace out the historical development of various current economic issues, including discrimination, climate change, automation, immigration, and rural-urban tensions
3. Describe historical periods in terms of various economic undercurrents, such as labor, natural resources, and technological advancement, including how they are experienced by different sub-populations
4. Demonstrate self-directed academic exploration using basic research, writing, cooperation, participation, and argumentation skills
5. Practice the social process (and etiquette) of scientific exploration, including discussion, debate, critique and open-minded inclusivity

Important course information

Prerequisites

There are no pre- or co-requisites for this course.

Course set-up

In this history class we start with reviewing the general history of the U.S., then each week add a new economic "angle" from which to reconsider that history, with an emphasis on sub-populations in the

U.S. Students will be placed into “book clubs” with peers to study a US economic history topic of their choosing throughout the semester (book club time will be provided during class). The final projects include individual book reports and a group presentation.

Required Materials

All required readings and materials are provided in Canvas. Students will be expected to check out and read a US economic history book of their choosing from a library.

Assignments

Assignments are to be submitted via Canvas unless they are completed in class. Assignments submitted late will lose up to 2 points per day late. If you need an extension on a deadline, please get in touch with me - I'm happy to make accommodations.

Communication

Please initiate communication with me via Canvas message; I may take up to 48 hours to respond. For more urgent issues, you may send me a text message (801.655.3622), but again, I may take up to 48 hours to respond. I will communicate with you via Canvas announcements (make sure to turn them on in Canvas settings!), timely feedback on your homework (2 week max turnaround), and otherwise via Canvas messages.

Technology info

Students will be required to present during class. At times we may use web polling software or other interactive tech during class, but it is not required.

Grading and evaluation

Grading of assignments		Grade scale (in %)	
Group: book club presentation	100 points	A : 94+	C : 74-76.9
Individual: book report	100 points	A-: 90 - 93.9	C-: 70 – 73.9
Short assignments (40 pts ea)	80 points	B+: 87 - 89.9	D+: 67 – 69.9
Peer reviews (20 pts ea)	40 points	B : 84 - 86.9	D: 64 – 66.9
Activities (5-10 pts ea)	80 points	B-: 80 - 83.9	D-: 61 – 63.9
Total	400 points	C+: 77 - 79.9	E: < 61

Group: book club presentation (100 points)

Each student will choose a history book on a topic that interests them, and then will be assigned to a “book club” with other students studying a similar topic. Throughout the semester students will meet in their book clubs during class to discuss what they are learning and to prepare a presentation.

Individual: book report (100 points)

At the end of the semester each individual student will submit a report on the book they read with their book club.

Short assignments (40 points each)

Short assignments are 2-3 page writing reflections that students submit to demonstrate their understanding of course materials. They are peer reviewed.

Peer reviews (20 points each)

You will review the short assignments from colleagues in your book club. There is **so much** we can learn by seeing how others approached the work differently from how you did – so this is about you learning from your peers, as well as giving them an opportunity to learn from you.

Activities (2-10 points each)

I might ask you to take a poll or submit the name of the book you're reading ... these points are for kicking your way for doing these little assignments that keep us all on track. Some of these points will be available outside of class (like a little quiz about a reading), but some will come from participating in class activities, so it's a good plan to attend class 😊

EXTRA CREDIT

You *really* don't need extra credit in this class.

LATE WORK

I will deduct two points from an assignment's grade per 24 hours it is submitted late; however, if you would like to arrange a different deadline with me at least 48 hours prior to the original deadline, I am happy to make accommodations to meet your needs

Canvas information

Canvas is the where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- Access Canvas through utah.instructure.com or through [CIS](#)
- For Canvas, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the [Campus Help Desk](#).
 - 801 581-4000
 - <http://it.utah.edu/help>
 - helpdesk@utah.edu
- For Canvas related issues or bugs, contact the Teaching & Learning Technologies help desk
 - 801-581-6112 ext 3
 - classhelp@utah.edu

Institutional policies

University Safety Statement.

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Policy

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services.

Additionally, the University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135
Salt Lake City, UT, 84112
801-581-8365 (voice/tdd)
801-585-5746 (fax)

<http://www.oeo.utah.edu> (Links to external site)

[Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act \(ADA\) and Sections 504 and 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 \(Sections 503 & 504\)](#)

University policy, the ADA, and Sections 504 & 503, prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's status as a person with a disability, require equal opportunity and access, a process for a person with a disability to request a reasonable accommodation, and a grievance process for an individual to complain of discrimination. The University endeavors to ensure that its campus and programs are accessible and in compliance with state and federal disability standards and to provide reasonable accommodations so as to remove a barrier that may prevent an individual with a disability from equally participating in academics, employment, or other University program. Reasonable accommodations may include specialized equipment, auxiliary aids, policy modifications, academic adjustments or other accommodation that is effective. University policy, as well as state and federal law, strictly prohibit retaliation against an individual for requesting a disability accommodation, for participating in a disability discrimination complaint process.

[Academic Dishonesty](#)

"All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee."

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this course. All submitted work will be reviewed by TurnItIn's plagiarism software, and will be added to their database of existing work. Instances of plagiarism and cheating will be reported to the university. The first instance will receive a grade of zero for that assignment, exam, etc. The second will result in a further action, and at the instructor's discretion a failing grade in the class may be given and potential disciplinary action by the university may be taken.

[Addressing Sexual Misconduct](#)

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories

such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Student Names and Personal Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name as well as "Preferred first name" (if previously entered by you in the Student Profile section of your CIS account). While CIS refers to this as merely a preference, I will honor you by referring to you with the name and pronoun that feels best for you in class, on papers, exams, group projects, etc. Please advise me of any name or pronoun changes (and update CIS) so I can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun will be respected. If you need assistance getting your preferred name on your UIDcard, please visit the LGBT Resource Center Room 409 in the Olpin Union Building, or email bpeacock@sa.utah.edu to schedule a time to drop by. The LGBT Resource Center hours are M-F 8am-5pm, and 8am-6pm on Tuesdays.

Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Veterans Center

If you are a student veteran, the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

LGBT Resource Center

The LGBT Resource Center offers Gender and Sexuality (formerly Safe Zone) trainings for faculty, staff and instructors at the U. You can also schedule one for your office or Department. The aim of the training is to promote inclusive teaching and foster a respectful, safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals in our classrooms. For more information about trainings/ workshops, panels and suggesting on how to ask about personal pronouns and preferred student names please go to: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/lgbtrc-programs/trainings.php>. If you plan to indicate that your classroom is a safe zone, please attend one of these trainings.

Learners of English as an Additional Language

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

Schedule

Week/Dates	Topic	Assignments due
Week 1: Aug 23-Aug 29	Orientation to class/economic history (Aug 27: last day to waitlist)	Activity 1: topic interest survey
Week 2: Aug 30-Sep 5	Economic angles to history (Sep 3: last day to add/change)	Activity 2: book selection
Week 3: Sep 6-Sep 12	Capitalism and U.S. economic history (Sep 6: no class labor day)	Short assignment 1
Week 4: Sep 13-Sep 19	Growth in the U.S. economy	Activity 3: meet book club
Week 5: Sep 20-Sep 26	The role of government	Activity 4: TBA
Week 6: Sep 27-Oct 3	Technology in the U.S.	Peer review 1
Week 7: Oct 4-Oct 10	Labor issues	Activity 5: TBA
Week 8: Oct 11–Oct 17	Fall break Oct 6-13	
Week 9: Oct 18-Oct 24	Slavery (Oct 22: last day to withdraw)	Short assignment 2
Week 10: Oct 25-Oct 31	Collective action problems	Activity 6: Trace your meal
Week 11: Nov 1-Nov 7	Labor movements	Group presentations
Week 12: Nov 8-Nov 14	Agriculture	Peer review 2 Group presentations
Week 13: Nov 15-Nov 21	Energy	Activity 7: TBA Group presentations
Week 14: Nov 22-Nov 28	Environment (Nov 25-28: Thanksgiving)	Group presentations
Week 15: Nov 29-Dec 5	Poverty and inequality (Dec 3: last day reverse CR/NC)	Activity 8: TBA Group presentations
Week 16: Dec 5 – Dec 12	Wrapping up	Activity 9: TBA Group presentations
Finals week		Book reports due Dec 14

Everything in this syllabus is subject to change – I will provide notifications to you in Canvas throughout the semester should something change, with at least 48 hours' notice.

CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



BUILDING EVACUATION



EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.

CAMPUS RESOURCES



U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call **801-585-2677**. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.