

**Dominion: Economic History of the United States I**  
**History HIUS 140/Economics ECON 158A**  
Fall Semester 2005 York 2622 TTh 11am-12.15pm

Grant Nebel, Lecturer

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Office: H&SS 6024  
Office Hours (in the Grove):  
TTh 12.30pm-1.30pm and by appt.

Teaching Assistants and Section Hours:

Kelli McCoy (M 10-10.50am, 11-11.50am)

Jon Smith (W 1-1.50pm, Th 10-10.50am)

Locations, Contact Information, and Office Hours TBA

Grader: James Field

**The Course:**

This course is a study of the growth of North America as a collection of trading nations, as a colony for the production and trade of raw materials, as an agrarian society, and as industrializing nation. We will study this from a *historical* perspective—that is, we will ask, how was this *made* to happen? We will cover the time period from roughly 1250 to the First World War. Students are not expected to have training in either economics, statistics, or history, although elements of all three will be used in class and in the readings.

**Readings:**

The following books are available at the University Bookstore in the Price Center:

Jeremy Atack, Peter Passell: *A New Economic View of American History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (AP)

Gary Walton, Hugh Rockoff: *History of the American Economy*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. (WR)

Douglas North, *The Economic Growth of the United States, 1790-1860* (North)

Course Reader, available at Soft Reserves.

Copies of the textbooks and of the course reader will be placed on reserve at the Geisel Library.

**Requirements and Recommendations:**

There will be two lectures per week. Readings starred on the reading list are especially important and are contained in the course reader. Students will be *required* to write one essay, due on Tuesday of the ninth week, with the details to be given by the beginning of the third week. There will be one midterm and one final examination, both of which will consist of short objective questions and longer essay questions. The essays and exams will be graded on a letter scale and be weighted as follows: **30% Midterm, 30% Essay, 40% Final for the final grade.** (The final exam will be comprehensive but slightly weighted towards material after the midterm.) Students must complete all assignments to receive a final grade in this class.

Students are *strongly encouraged* to attend the discussion sections throughout the quarter. These sections will be a chance for students to ask questions and work problems that will improve their ability to successively complete the essay. Locations of the sections will (hopefully) be announced in the second week of classes.

### **Grade Appeals and Make-Up Examinations:**

Students who wish to appeal the grading of examinations and/or essays may do so *in writing* within two weeks of the return of the examination or essay. This should include an explanation of the specific reasons why the appeal is being made. Make-up examinations will not be offered except under extraordinary circumstances or medical emergencies. Such circumstances will need to be documented appropriately by a physician.

*America was never innocent. We popped our cherry on the boat over and looked back with no regrets. You can't ascribe our fall from grace to any single event or set of circumstances. You can't lose what you lacked at conception.*

James Ellroy

## **COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to minor revision)

- 22 Sep Introduction to the Course; Disciplines of Economics and History;  
Economic Development: the Success of the United States
- 27 Sep The Precolumbian economy  
Reading: AP, Introduction and Chapter 1; WR, Chapter 1
- 29 Sep Credit and Corporations; **Essay Assigned**  
Reading: Parry, *The Age of Reconnaissance* (in reader)
- 4 Oct Settlement and Trade; Reading: WR, Chapters 2-3
- 6 Oct America in the World Economy; Reading: AP, Chapter 2
- 11 Oct Export Economies; Reading: WR, Chapters 4-5
- 13 Oct The American Revolution in Economic Perspective:  
Reading: AP, Chapter 3; WR, Chapter 6
- 18 Oct Alexander Hamilton's Vision; Readings: *The Federalist*, WR, Chapter 7
- 20 Oct The Constitution and Private Property;  
Readings: Horwitz, *The Transformation of American Law*, AP, Chapter 5
- 25 Oct Thomas Jefferson's Vision; Reading: WR, Chapter 8-9, North, Chapter 9

27 Oct **MIDTERM**

- 1 Nov Regional Economies: the Northeast;  
Reading: Bidwell, "The Agricultural Revolution in New England," AP, Chapter 7
- 3 Nov Expanding the American Economy;  
Reading: WR, Chapter 10-11, North, Chapter 12,  
Taylor, *The Transportation Revolution*
- 8 Nov Regional Economies: the South;  
Reading: Genovese, *The Political Economy of Slavery*, AP, Chapters 11-12
- 10 Nov Economics and Political Culture: the South;  
Readings, McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds*,  
WR, Chapter 13, North, Chapter 12
- 15 Nov Regional Economies: the West;  
Reading: North, Chapter 11, 13-15, AP, Chapter 9
- 17 Nov The Civil War and Reconstruction;  
Reading: WR, Chapter 14-15, AP, Chapter 13-14
- 22 Nov This Modern World (Corporate); **Essay Due**;  
Reading: Chandler, *The Visible Hand*, WR, Chapter 16-17, AP, Chapter 16-17
- 29 Nov This Modern World (Labor);  
Reading, Brody, *Steelworkers in America*, WR, Chapter 18-19, AP, Chapter 19
- 1 Dec This Modern World (Culture);  
Reading: Bledstein, *The Culture of Professionalism*

*O brave new world that has such people in it!*

William Shakespeare