

**University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Semester I, 2002-03**

The American Economy to the Civil War Era  
History and Economics 465

Course Description:

465 is designed to introduce you to the topics, methods, and materials of American economic history. The lectures identify the issues that have defined the field over the past three decades. At the beginning of each lecture I outline the day's topic and explain why I think it is worthy of your time and attention. The readings acquaint you with the very best that is written in the field. Each week in a two or three page written summary and in discussion you will analyze these readings, paying particular attention to the author's arguments and evidence. By the end of the semester, you should be able to pick up an article or a chapter of a book and quickly pen a clear, concise analysis. And if I have done my job, you will continue to enjoy economic history long after you have left this classroom.

Required readings:

You should purchase Thomas Doerflinger's *A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise*, Robert William Fogel, *Without Consent or Contract*, and a packet of readings available at the Humanities Copy Center located in 1650 Humanities.

Lecture Topics:

Sept. 4: Introduction to American Economic History  
6: Capitalism and Commerce

Sept. 9: The Virginia Colony\*  
11: The Tobacco Colonies in the Seventeenth Century  
13: Massachusetts Bay in the Seventeenth Century  
\*Read: John McCusker and Russell Menard, *The Economy of British North America*, pp. 5-70.

Sept. 16: Agriculture in the Eighteenth Century\*  
18: The Extractive Industries and Manufacturing  
20: Colonial Currency  
\*Read: Peter Mancall, "Landholding," in the *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies*, I, pp. 653-63; Paul Clemons, "Farming, Planting, and Ranching, the British Colonies, the *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies*, I, pp. 677-94, and Daniel Vickers, "Working the Fields in a Developing Economy," in Stephen Innes, *Work and Labor in Early America*, pp. 49-69.

Sept. 23: Colonial Commerce\*  
25: Unfree Labor: Servants and Slaves  
27: Colonial Income and Wealth  
\*Read: Thomas Doerflinger, *A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise*, pp. 1-164.

Sept. 30: British Mercantilism and the Road to Revolution  
Oct. 2: The Revolutionary War\*  
4: The Burdens and Benefits of Independence  
\*Read: Doerflinger, *A Vigorous Spirit*, pp. 167-364.

Oct. 7: Comparative Colonial Development\*  
9: Adam Smith and the Institutional Origins of American Capitalism  
11: The Courts and American Development  
\*Read: Stanley Engerman and Kenneth Sokoloff, "Factor Endowments, Institutions, and Differential Paths of Growth Among New World Economies" A View from Economic Historians of the United States," National Bureau of Economic Research, *Working paper Series on Historical Factors in Long Run Growth*, #66, December, 1994.

Oct. 13: From Market-Places to a Market Economy  
15: The Golden Age of Commerce, 1790-1815  
17: Midsemester Exam  
No readings the week of the midsemester.

Oct. 21: The Beginnings of Modern Growth  
23: The Transportation Revolution: I\*  
25: The Transportation Revolution: II  
\*Read: Erik Haites, James Mak, and Gary Walton, *Western River Transportation*, pp. 59-87.

Oct. 28: American Industrialization in an International Context  
30: Two Patterns of Manufacturing Development: The Large Firm  
Nov. 1: The Small Firm\*  
\*Read: Kenneth Sokoloff, "Was the Transition from the Artisanal Shop to the Nonmechanized Factory Associated with Gains in Efficiency? Evidence from the U.S. Manufacturing Censuses of 1820 and 1850," *Explorations in Economic History* (October, 1984), pp. 351-62 and 378-82; and Sokoloff, "Investment in Fixed and Working Capital During Early Industrialization: Evidence from U.S. Manufacturing Firms," *Journal of Economic History* (June, 1984), pp. 545-56.

Nov. 4: Early American Banking\*  
6: Andrew Jackson and the Bank War  
8: Government in the Antebellum Era  
\*Read: Naomi Lamoreaux, *Insider Lending*, pp. 11-51.

Nov. 11: Northern Agriculture: I  
13: Northern Agriculture: II  
15: Slavery and the Southern Economy\*  
\*Read: Robert Fogel, *Without Consent or Contract*, pp. 17-113.

Nov. 18: Slavery and the Family\*  
20: The Railroad  
\*Read: "How the Southern Slave System Worked," in Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell, *A New Economic View of American History*, pp. 327-52.

Nov. 25: The Iron Industry  
27: The American System of Manufactures  
29: The Changing World of Work\*  
\*Read: Thomas Dublin, *Women at Work*, pp. 23-74; and Richard Stott, "Artisans and Capitalist Development," in *Journal of the Early Republic* (Summer, 1996), pp. 258-71.

Dec. 2: The Standard of Living Debate\*  
4: The Demographic Transition  
6: Immigration and the Urban Boom  
\*Read: Richard Steckel, "Stature and Living Standards in the United States," National Bureau of Economic Research, *Working Paper Series*, #24, April, 1991; and Fogel, *Without Consent or Contract*, pp. 354-62.

Dec. 9: The Coming of the Civil War\*  
11: The Civil War  
13: Growth and Inequality  
\*Read: Fogel, *Without Consent or Contract*, pp. 281-387.

\*Denotes discussion. You should have read the readings and written your two to three page analysis by the class hour.

Your grade will be determined as follows:  
Weekly summaries.....50%  
Midsemester examination..20%  
Final examination.....30%

On those days marked by an asterisk (\*) you will turn in a brief (two to three page) essay. This essay should identify the author's argument, evidence, and methodology. The essay must be turned in at the beginning of the class hour, late papers will not be accepted. Students may take three byes, that is, may select three weeks in which they will not submit a paper. On those weeks you will just turn in a sheet of paper notifying me that this is your bye week. You will still be responsible for having read the readings and for contributing to discussion.

The examinations will consist of broad essay questions. Copies of old exams will be available.

My office is in 4125 Humanities, office hours are Monday and Friday from 10 to 11:30. If you cannot meet during those times, call me at 263-2366 (office) or 848-5456 (home) or email me at [dllindst@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:dllindst@facstaff.wisc.edu) for an appointment.