

PREVIEW

ECON 362

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Credits: 3 Semester Hours

Revised Summer 2007

Course Author and Instructor: Patricia E. Graham, Ph.D.

**10 Lessons with Questions Requiring Brief Essay Responses
Proctored Final Exam**

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EXAM REQUEST FORM

COURSE WORK EVALUATION COVER SHEETS

Disability Support Services

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the UNC Disability Support Services at 970-351-2289 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed.

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BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Graham has a B.A. in economics and international relations from the University of Denver and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Colorado State University in economics. Courses she has taught at UNC since 1988 include Economic History of the U.S., Women and the Economy, History of Economic Thought and Contemporary Economic Problems. Her research focuses on economic education and economic development. She has been department chair since 2001.

COURSE PREFIX, TITLE: ECON 362- Economic History of the United States

SEMESTER HOURS: Three (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will review the historical changes in U.S. economic institutions and assess U.S. history based on macroeconomic and microeconomic pressures.

PREREQUISITES: Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics

REQUIRED TEXT: Walton, Gary M. and Hugh Rockoff (2004). History of the American Economy, 10th ed. Thomson Publishing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course you will have an understanding of:

- The forces that from the beginning of European settlement determined the direction of the American economy.
- How immigration has influenced the economic development of the nation.
- The upward movement of the American standard of living.

CONTENT:

- Unit I: Economic Development and Trade in Colonial America.
- Unit II: The Economics of the American Revolution.
- Unit III: Immigration and Early Industrial Development.
- Unit IV: Money, Slavery, and War.
- Unit V: Agriculture and the Movement West; Industrial Revolution.
- Unit VI: Urbanization and the Organization of the Fed.
- Unit VII: From World War I to the Great Depression.
- Unit VIII: The New Deal and World War II.
- Unit IX: Growth of the Federal Government.
- Unit X: Economic Issues of the 21st Century.

EVALUATION: You will be graded on the quality of your written assignments and a final exam. Written assignments are 60% and the final exam is 40% of your final grade.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- When you have finished the reading assignment, complete the questions and problems at the end of each chapter. Double-spaced, word-processed assignments are preferred.
- If you have any questions for me, write them on a separate sheet of paper and clip or staple the questions on the first page of your written work.
- Staple each unit separately.
- Be sure your name is on each page of your written work.
- Make a copy of your written work to save as a back-up in case an assignment is lost in the mail. The University cannot be responsible for your work should this happen.
- Fill out and staple a **COURSE WORK EVALUATION COVER SHEET** to your written assignment before mailing to:

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Greeley, CO 80639

DO NOT SEND YOUR ASSIGNMENTS DIRECTLY TO DR. GRAHAM!

- You are responsible for the postage necessary to mail your assignments to the University.

DIRECTIONS FOR FINAL EXAM: This course requires a proctored final exam. Take the final after all the units are completed. Information on finding a proctor and securing your exam can be found on the EXAM REQUEST FORM located at the back of this syllabus. The questions on the exam are similar to those in your written assignments.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE: In chapter 1 of the text, our authors tell us about the purpose of this course. They tell us that the study of the economic history of the U.S. is not about memorizing long lists of dates and places, generals and wars, or presidents and legislative acts. Instead, our aim is to provide a deeper understanding of how we developed as a nation, how different population segments have fared, and what principal policies or compelling forces have brought about differential progress among regions and people.

To tell this story, we will utilize two disciplines, economics and history. History is a narrative statement of the past; economics is the study of the allocation of scarce resources. Both disciplines summarize events and reality, using theories to select relevant information and to disregard irrelevant information. Without this process of

abstraction and summary, trying to comprehend a record of the whole past or the complexity of our economic system would be a futile exercise.

Even with the selective lens of your authors, there is more detail and content than can be absorbed in a one-semester course in our textbook. Therefore, although we will cover all of the chapters in our unit assignments, the focus will be on several central themes in the economic development of the U.S. from colonial to modern times. These themes or topics include:

- The mercantilist drive for discovery and trade that led to the development of the American colonies.
- The economic causes of the American Revolution.
- The impact of agriculture on western expansion and slavery.
- The development of our money and banking system.
- The Civil War's transformation of our regional and socioeconomic development.
- The debate about the appropriate role of government in the economy.

These themes, in addition to our course objectives listed on Page 4, will form the basis for the final exam. The written assignments will provide a study guide for the student in preparing for the exam. Answer each question in the written assignment with a "short essay" of 3-10 sentences, being as specific as possible. Generally, a large number of written assignments require shorter answers; a fewer number of questions suggests longer answers. If you use information directly from the text, please cite your reference.

Now we'll begin our story of the history of the U.S. economy with the founding of the Colonies.