

# **ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES**

## **ECONOMICS 4524**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

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#### INTRODUCTION

This course examines North America's past from the perspective of economics. In designing the course, I had two objectives in mind. First, topics have been chosen to provide a perspective on the development of American economy from the Colonial period to the present. Second, this is a course in applied economics. To that end, topics have been chosen to illustrate how evidence and theory are combined to further our understanding of particular historical events. The economist, by his or her training, tends to become expert in the construction and manipulation of theory or of hypothesis. The historian tends to become expert on sources, evidence, and their reliability. A satisfactory social science should combine both of these aspects. Economic history presents a nearly unique opportunity to observe the use of economics as a mode of explanation across a wide range of questions and issues. Often we study issues which have been raised by non-economic

Information on the group project will be provided in class. You will be workingII

3. **The Other Side of the Frontier:** Native American Issues  
Jared Diamond,

The Rise of Big Business

A & P, ch.17

Mark Aldrich, Safety First; Technology, Labor, and Business in the Building of American Safety, 1870-1930 ch. 1 and ch. 5

Alfred D. Chandler, "Organizational Capabilities and the Economic History of the Industrial Enterprise," **Journal of Economic Perspectives** 6 (Summer 1992)

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