ECONOMICS 113
AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

This course has two purposes: 1) To cover the economic history of the region now known as “The United States” from colonial times to present; and 2) To explore the historical approach to understanding economic phenomena.

Lecturer
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GSI
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Materials
A course reader is available from Copy Central on Bancroft containing required readings. These readings will form the bases for lectures, in-class discussions, and exams. Students are required to complete readings according to the schedule below.

Assignments
Exams
Midterm Exam: Thursday, March 16, 8-9:30 AM
Final Exam: Thursday, May 18, 8-11 AM

Writing Assignment I: Economic History Research Proposal
A brief research proposal of 750 words or less is due in class on Thursday, March 2nd. This proposal should 1) present and motivate a focused historical research question; and 2) describe how historical data and economic concepts might be used to develop an answer.

Writing Assignment II: Historical Data Analysis
A preliminary analysis of an historical research question, of 750 words or less, is due in class on Thursday, April 13. This analysis should draw upon historical data and economic concepts to suggest a preliminary answer to an historical research question.

Writing Assignment III: Term Paper (Optional)
An optional term paper of 10 to 15 pages is due in class on Tuesday, May 9. The maximum of your grade on this assignment and your grade on the midterm will be used to calculate your final grade in the course (see below). If you decide to write a term paper, you must provide notification of your intent to do so by Thursday, April 13.

Grading
Midterm Exam (or Term Paper).................................................................25%
Final Exam..............................................................................................35%
Writing Assignment I...............................................................15%
Writing Assignment II...............................................................15%
Class Participation.................................................................................10%

Policies
No late assignments will be accepted. If you miss the midterm for any reason, no make-up exam will be offered and you must submit a term paper in order to receive a grade. Section attendance is mandatory. If you require special accommodations, please inform your instructor and also contact UC Berkeley’s DSP (dsp.berkeley.edu).
Schedule of Readings

Week 1:
January 17: Course overview

Week 2:

Week 3:

Week 4:
February 9: Albert Fishlow, "The Dynamics of Railroad Extension to the West," in Fogel and Engerman (eds.), *The Reinterpretation of American Economic History*

Week 5:

Week 6:
February 23: Gavin Wright, “Slavery and American Agricultural History,” *Agricultural History* 77 (Fall 2003)

Week 7:

Week 8:
March 9: Gavin Wright, “Understanding the Gender Gap: A Review Article,” *Journal of Economic Literature* 29 (September 1991)

Week 9:
March 16: Midterm Exam
Week 10:

Week 12:
April 4: Charles Calomiris, "Financial Factors in the Great Depression," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7 (Spring 1993)

Week 13:
April 11: Chiaki Moriguchi, “Implicit Contracts, the Great Depression, and Institutional Change,” *Journal of Economic History* 63 (September 2003)

Week 14:
April 20: Gavin Wright, “The Civil Rights Revolution as Economic History,” *Journal of Economic History* 59 (June 1999)

Week 15:

Week 16:

Week 17:
May 9: Wrap-Up Session

Final Exam: Thursday, May 18, 8-11 AM