The course objective is to provide you with insights into the performance of the American economy across time and with respect to other economies; the underlying sources of growth; and key issues in American economic development. Assigned readings will be discussed in each class.

**Grading:**

- Midterm exam: 25% of course grade
- Final exam: 35% of course grade
- Paper: 25% of course grade
- Paper outlines and class discussion: 15% of course grade

Make up exams will be given only with approved absences. Exams are short-answer essay and definitions. There is no curving of grades. The paper must be 10-15 pages with endnotes and references. Each student must select one of the works of American literature listed below or another approved volume and place the work into the context of American economic development at that time. The objective is to determine how economic conditions at the time influenced the author and the work. A series of paper outlines must be turned in and modified before the final paper is written. At least one of the starred readings will be discussed in each class and students are required to lead the discussion.

**Course material:**

- A copy of the US Constitution.
- Readings Packet with required readings on Library Reserve and on the net.

Below, required readings are starred (*) and in the packet. Supplemental readings will be useful for your papers and are noted (s). I can assist you in accessing the supplemental readings.

1. GNP and Per Capita Income:
   - Atack and Passell, Chapter 1 (*).

2. Income and Wealth Distribution.
   - Jeffrey Williamson and Peter Lindert, 1985, “Growth, Equality, and History,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 341-77 (*).
II. Sources of Economic Growth.

1. Labor Force.
   Attack and Passell, Chapters 8, 19 (*).

2. Demography.

3. Education.

5. Immigration.

6. Land and Natural Resources.
Atack and Passell, Chapters 9, 15 (*).

Atack and Passell, Chapter 7, 17.
Jeremy Attack, 1985 “Industrial Structure and the Emergence of the Modern Corporation,” Explorations in Economic History, January, 29-52 (*).

8. Transportation.
Atack and Passell, Chapter 6, 16 (*).

Atack and Passell, Chapter 5 (*).

10. Technology.
Atack and Passell, Chapters 8, 10 (*).


11. **Institutions: Laws, Contracts, Property Rights, Regulation, Transfers.**

   Atack and Passell, Chapter 23.

   The US Constitution (*).


Gary Libecap, Contracting for Property Rights, 1989, 1-72, 115-121 (*).

III. Literature:
Upton Sinclair, The Jungle.
John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath.
Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom’s Cabin.
Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
Ole Rolvaag, Giants in the Earth.
Willa Cather, My Antonia.
Mark Twain, A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur’s Court.
Harriet H. Robinson, Loom and Spindle or Life Among the Early Mill Girls.
Alex de Tocqueville, Democracy in America.
Matthew Josephson, Robber Barons.
Ida Tarbell, History of Standard Oil.
Dee Brown, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.
Sinclair Lewis, Main Street.
Edna Ferber, Cimarron.
Margaret Mitchell, Gone with the Wind.