

**Economics 323-2**  
**American Economic History**  
**Winter 2005**  
**Professor Joel Mokyr**  
**Syllabus and Outline**

Note: The Course will deal with issues in U.S. Economic development since The Civil War to the present. There are two books, both required. One is the textbook, Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain, *American Economic History*, **sixth** edition (henceforth H & C). The other is a supplementary collection of reading, Robert Whaples and Dianne C. Betts, eds., *Historical Perspectives on the American Economy* (henceforth W & B).

Course structure: there will be two lectures a week. The lecture material and readings should be viewed as largely complementary. All reading are required. Both lecture materials and readings will be necessary to pass the course with a good grade because they are complements, not substitutes. Questions, special requests, etc. will be handled at my office hours Tuesdays 11-1 in Harris Hall room 325 and by email to [J-MOKYR@Northwestern.EDU](mailto:J-MOKYR@Northwestern.EDU). I can also be found in AAH 3214.

Note: all graphs and tables shown in class will be available on my website, Web-page: <http://www.faculty.econ.northwestern.edu/faculty/mokyr>

Requirements: There will one *mandatory* midterm exam, and an inclusive final examination.

**Note:** the books are available from Norris bookstore.

*Week I: Economic Growth 1865-1929*

H&C chs. 13 ( pp. 253-62), 16

*Week II: Agriculture and the Dual Economy*

H&C ch. 13, pp. 262-70; ch. 15

W & B essays 8, 9

*Week III: Technological change and the Industrialization Process*

H&C ch. 17

W & B essays 12, 13

*Week IV: The Rise of Big Business and Big Labor*

H&C 14, 18 (pp. 356-361 only), ch. 21

W & B essay 10

*Week V: The Rise of Government and Regulation*

H&C chs. 18 (pp. 361-73),

W&B essay 16

*Week VI: The Financial and International sectors*

H&C chs. 19-20

W & B essay 14

*Week VII: World War I and the 1920s*

H&C chs. 22-23;

W&B, essay 17

*Week VIII: The Great Depression*

H&C ch. 24

W & B essays 18,19

*Week IX: New Deal and War*

H&C chs. 25-26

*Week X: The post 1945 economy*

H&C chs. 27-29