

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ECON 20 - Economic History of the U.S.

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV; Math Level II

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course studies the origin and development of the American Economy from colonial times to the present. It is a study of changes in and the development of land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship over time. It includes the basis for industrial growth, land and resource use, the transportation revolution, the development of money and banking machinery, changing trade patterns, the rise of organized labor, and the economic growth of government.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe and evaluate the development of land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship from colonial time to the present.
- B. Analyze how each of the factors of production contributed to the growth and prosperity of the American economy.
- C. Analyze the role that slavery played in the American society from an economic perspective.
- D. Explain the contributions of key innovators and their contribution to technology and growth.
- E. Explain how various institutions; e.g., the Federal Reserve Bank, labor unions, the banking sector and the federal government influenced the development of the American economy.
- F. Identify and analyze the factors that contributed to the Great Depression.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. The merging of economics and history; the meaning of economic history	6.00
2. The Colonial Era, 1607 - 1776	6.00
3. The Revolutionary, Early National, Agricultural and Antebellum Eras, 1776 - 1860	11.00
4. The Reunification Era, 1860 - 1920	12.00
5. Prosperity, Depression, and World Wars, 1914 - 1945	9.00
6. The Postwar Era, 1945 to present	7.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussions
- C. Collaborative Group Work
- D. Class Activities
- E. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each

- hour of lecture
- F. Multimedia Presentations
- G. Internet applications and simulations
- H. Student research presentations
- I. In-class debates
- J. Guest lectures and presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Portfolios
- D. Oral Presentation
- E. Essays and research papers
- F. Debates/discussions

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read book excerpt titled, "16-page Economic History of the World," from "A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World," by Gregory Clark. Take notes while reading and bring to class for in-class quiz.
 - 2. Read the chapter reviewing the colonial period from 1607-1783 and take online quiz.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Using copy of U.S. Constitution, identify and explain two examples in Articles I and II that correspond to William Bernstein's "Formula for Economic Progress."
 - 2. Write a 1000-word minimum paper in MLA format discussing a feature film of your choosing. Your paper should consider whether events in the film demonstrate Bernstein's "Formula for Economic Progress" are being realized and what impact, positive or negative, that is having upon the economy shown in the film.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Read the chapter covering the post-WWII economy and take online quiz.
 - 2. Explain the meaning of the "Great Divergence" taking time to explore its repercussions in the modern world. Further, identify what allowed some countries to grow faster than others.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Hughes, J. and Cain, L.P. American Economic History. 8th Edition. Harper Collins College Publishers, 2010.

Created/Revised by: Steve Price

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