ECON 311
Economic History and Modern Development  
Summer 2012 Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives: This is a class in American Economic History. This semester will focus on the Colonial period and the early 19th century. We will focus on the development of the colonial economy; forces that led to the revolution and the creation of a national economy in the early 19th century. We will be particularly concerned with how agriculture contributed to American economic development.

The course includes lectures and in-class exams.

Instructors’ Contact Information and Class Logistics:
Office: Tydings Hall 3115N
Email: laparraperez@econ.umd.edu
Phone: 301 405 4534
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays. 2pm -3pm. Office: Tyd. 3115N.

Class Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays., 3 – 6:10 pm in Tydings 0102.

Pre-requisites: ECON200 and ECON201. For ECON majors only.

Expectations of Students: If you attend lectures regularly, you will be better able to understand the readings and prepare for exams. You are expected to read the assigned chapters of the books listed below before we discuss them in class. Reading is indeed a crucial part of this course. A list of the books that we will use as well as a tentative idea of the relevant chapters that will be discussed in each class is provided below. If you find that you can’t follow the logic of lectures and readings, please visit my office hours before exams. Contacting me about such problems at the end of the term when your grade is lower than you expected is too late.

Academic Integrity
The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards applicable to all undergraduate students, and you are responsible for upholding these standards as you complete assignments and take exams in this course. Please make yourself aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information see www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu

Course Website: If you are registered for this course, you should use your directory ID and password to access www.elms.umd.edu. Copies of this syllabus, your grades, and other relevant documents will be made available through the course website.

Email: The University has adopted email as the primary means of communication outside the classroom, and I will use it to inform you of important announcements. Students are responsible for updating their current email address via the appropriate link on http://www.testudo.umd.edu/Registrar.html. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding email, and returned email due to “mailbox full” or “user unknown” will not excuse a student from missing announcements or deadlines.

You are encouraged to contact me by email, and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. PLEASE include ECON311 in the subject line, so that I can quickly distinguish your message from spam or other less
important matters. PLEASE also include your name and any previous messages we’ve exchanged within
every message you send to me.

Textbooks:

The two following books are required to follow the course:

- Jonathan HUGHES, and Louis CAIN, American Economic History. Prentice Hall, 2010 (8th
dition). 6th and 7th edition of the book are also fine (and much cheaper).


The following books are recommended (not required) and will provide some important material for parts of the course


Grades and Assignments: Your grade will be determined by your performance on exams and two problem sets. The weight of each exam in the final grade will be as follows:

Problem sets: 20% (10% each)
Midterm: 35%
Final: 45%

The format of exam questions is essay questions and “closed book” – use of notes and interaction with classmates are both prohibited. The midterm is scheduled for July 24th in class, and the final exam will take place in class on August 16th. The final exam will be cumulative. Students are required to take both exams. Make-up exams will be granted only to those students whose excuse complies with University policy. The four valid excuses according to University policy are medical conditions, religious observances, participation in University events at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond your control. If you believe you need a make-up, please inform me as far in advance as possible by email. University policy requires that you provide appropriate documentation before you can be considered eligible for a make-up exam. If you miss an exam and cannot document a valid excuse, your grade will be recorded as a zero.

Students who are registered with the University’s Disability Support Services (DSS) office and who provide me with an updated DSS form by specific date you choose will be accommodated. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with the documentation in advance of exams.

Department of Economics’ policy on grading requires instructors to use the grading system announced at the beginning of the semester in all cases and with no exceptions. There will be no opportunities for extra credit after the semester ends.
Schedule of Classes:
The following schedule is tentative and may suffer some changes. The dates for the midterm and
the final exam are definitive.

July 10. Introduction, basic concepts and David’s conjectural model.
- Hughes, Introduction (Atack, Introduction and ch. 1)
- Wright: Introduction.

July 12. The colonial economy. Economic motives behind the revolution?
- Robert Paul Thomas, "A Quantitative Approach to the Study of the Effects of British Imperial
- Hughes, ch. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Atack, ch. 2 and 3)

July 17. The ideological origins of the revolution. Land, the Articles of the Confederation and the
Constitution.
- Hughes chapter 5. ("Sources of Political Culture” by B. Bailyn; Atack: 9).

- Guy S. Callender. "The Early Transportation and Banking Enterprises of the States in Relation
to Corporations" Quarterly Journal of Economics, 1902.
- Hughes ch.6 (Atack, 8)

July 24. MIDTERM. 3pm-4:30pm.

July 26. Northern Agriculture (I)
- Hughes: 9 (Atack: 10).

July 31. Southern Agriculture (I): cotton and southern plantation
- Hughes: 9 (Atack: 11)
- Wright: 2
- Gallman, “Self-Sufficiency In the Cotton Economy Of The Antebellum South” (Agricultural

August 2. Southern Agriculture (II): the economics of slavery
- Hughes: 10
- Wright: 3, 4 (Fogel and Engerman)
August 7. Manufacturing

August 9. Banking and Finance
    - Hughes: 12 (Atack: 4)

    - Wright: 5

August 16. FINAL EXAM. 3 pm-5:30pm.