ECON 311
American Economic History Before the Civil War
Summer 2013 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 3115B
Email: laparraperez@econ.umd.edu
Phone: 301 405 4534

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm-3pm (except on exam days in which precise hours will be announced) and by e-mail appointment.Office: Tyd. 3115B.

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

Pre-requisites: ECON200 and ECON201. Must be in a major within BSOS-Economics department.

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:


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 will be Thursday July 23 in class, and the final exam will take place in class on Thursday August 15. 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 9. Introduction, basic concepts, and David’s conjectural model.
- Hughes, Introduction
- Atack, Introduction and ch. 1.

July 11. The colonial economy. Economic motives behind the revolution?
- Hughes, ch. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Atack, ch. 2 and 3.

- “Sources of Political Culture” by B. Bailyn.

- Hughes ch. 5.
- Atack: ch. 9.

July 23. MIDTERM. 3pm-4:30pm.

July 25. Demography and Callender.
- Hughes: ch.6
- Atack: ch. 8

July 30. Northern Agriculture
- Hughes: ch. 9
- Atack: ch. 10. August 2.

August 1. Southern Agriculture: cotton and slavery
- Hughes: ch. 9, 10.
- Atack: ch. 11

**August 6.** Banking and Finance
- Hughes: ch. 12.
- Atack: ch. 4.
- Optional reading: Rogoff, “Money, Prices, And Banks In The Jacksonian Era”.

**August 8.** Manufacturing
- Hughes: ch. 11.
- Atack: ch. 7.

**August 13.** The Coming of the Civil War and its costs - Review session.

**August 15.** **FINAL EXAM.** 3 pm-5:30pm.