This is a class in American Economic History. This semester will focus on Agriculture in the Colonial period and the early 19th century. We will focus on the development of the colonial economy and the creation of a national economy in the early 19th century.

The texts for the course are:


Two optional readings that can be useful for some parts of the course are


In addition to the text there will be readings from other books and professional journal articles. The readings are available on the class web site (https://umd.instructure.com/login).

Copies of the lecture notes will also be available on the web site. The lecture notes for this semester will usually be posted the day of the lecture or the night before.

Grades in the class will be based on a set of exam (midterm: 35% and final: 45%) and four problem sets (5% each). Problem sets handled after the due date (usually class time) will get zero points (no exceptions).

The exams will be a combination of short answer essays and multiple choice (about three-quarters of the weight will be on the essays).

The midterm exam date is scheduled for **March 14**, and the final exam will be on the day and time scheduled by the University, which is **Saturday, May 11 at 8am-10am**.

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._

ECON 311 Reading List
The following schedule is tentative and may suffer some changes as classes go on.

Readings (optional readings between parenthesis) for the week of:

1/24  What are we talking about?  
Hughes, Introduction  
(Atack, Introduction and ch. 1)

1/29  The colonial economy: Land, Land/Labor and Productivity  
Hughes, ch. 1  
(Atack, ch. 2)  
It would be wise to read the first five chapters of Hughes as soon as possible.

2/5  Regional specialization and the Colonial Economy  
Hughes, ch. 2 & 3

2/12  Causes of the Revolution  
Hughes, ch. 4

2/19  Northwest Ordinances and Land Constitution  
Hughes, ch. 5  
(Atack, chapter 9)

2/26  Demography 1790-1860  
Hughes ch.6

3/12  Finish Callender

3/14  **Midterm Exam**

It is recommended to start reading the first four chapters of Wright’s book as soon as possible.

3/26  Transportation
Hughes, ch. 8
(Atack, ch. 6)

4/2  Banking and Finance
Hughes, ch. 12
(Atack, ch 4)

4/9  Northern Agriculture

4/16  Southern Agriculture
Hughes, ch. 9
Wright, *The Political Economy of the Cotton South*, ch. 1, 2
(Atack, ch. 10, 11)

4/23  Slavery
Wright, *The Political Economy of the Cotton South*, ch. 3, 4

4/30  Manufacturing and Technology
N. Rosenberg, “Technological change in the Machine Tool Industry, 1840-1910”

5/7  Coming of the Civil War
Wright, Ch. 5
Hughes and Cain: pp. 263-268