Course description:

This course surveys American business and economic development from colonial times to the present. Major themes include the historical development of capitalism; small business and family business; the shifting position of the U.S. within the world economy; a comparison of business history in the US with other nations; the regional economy of Georgia and the South; labor-management relations; the labor movement; government-business relations; the image of business and business leaders in society; an introduction to the historical development of economic thought, especially in the US context; and the changing social, political, and cultural context within which business and economic institutions have developed.

Requirements:

Required books:


Louis Hyman, *Debtor Nation*

Glenn Porter, *The Rise of Big Business, 1860-1920*

Additional required readings will be posted to the D2L course website.

Required Online Reading Resources:

EH.Net Economic History Services, including the EH.Net Encyclopedia.

Articles from JSTOR database (available via Galileo).

Consult the WebCt calendar for daily reading assignments. Reading assignments should be completed prior to the assigned class to facilitate discussion.

Exams and Grading: We will have two essay exams in this class, a midterm and a final. Each will count 30% of the final grade. In addition, students will complete 2 short research papers based on primary source documents and secondary sources (see paper description). The higher of the 2 grades will count 30%, the lower will count 10%.
Select a topic in United States business or economic history. Identify a primary source or small set of sources (we will discuss and collectively identify possibilities in class), then select and read four articles from the following journals: *Business History Review, Journal of Economic History, Labor History, Enterprise and Society* (if you choose another journal, please clear the journal with the instructor) related to the topic. Write a brief paper (6-8 pages, double-spaced). You may substitute up to two books cleared by the instructor (or portions of books) for two of the articles, but you must use at least two articles from the listed journals. Your goal is to write a paper on the topic using the primary source(s) and articles as your sources.

You should cite your sources in footnotes or endnotes using the Turabian style. This should be fairly simple for secondary sources—citing journals and books is a straightforward proposition. I have attached a link below with some brief examples to guide you. If you have questions, please ask me. You can e-mail me a few sample citations, for example, in advance and I can correct them before you turn in the paper.

**Turabian citation style/examples**: [http://library.georgetown.edu/guides/turabianfoot/](http://library.georgetown.edu/guides/turabianfoot/)

**Possible Topics**: Keep in mind you are not limited to these. If you have an idea, please run it by me and I will try to help you find appropriate sources.

Slavery in the US Economy

The Industrial Revolution

The role of an influential individual, group, or institution—the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the US Chamber of Commerce, African-American business leaders, the Federal Reserve, etc.

The significance of a particular entrepreneur or company—John D. Rockefeller, IBM, etc.

The significance of a particular innovation, either organizational or technological—the internet, air conditioning, the moving assembly line, the typewriter, “chain stores,” etc.

A cultural aspect of business—business people in film or literature, advertising as a cultural phenomenon, the idea of success or failure in American life, etc.

Government and business relations
Agriculture (US policy toward, evolution of a particular crop or style of agriculture, etc.)