

Economics 260
5 Credit Hours
Spring, 2012
M-F 9:30-10:20
Room: A130
Instructor: Chace Stiehl
Office: A200E
Hours: T/H 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. F 2-3 P.M.
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U.S. Economic History

Texts:

History of the American Economy, 12e, Walton and Rockoff (WR)
A People's History of the United States: 1492 to the Present, Howard Zinn (Zinn)

Course Objectives:

This course will explore the economic and social foundations of American capitalism. We will focus on the rise and the success of the American case, while at the same time highlighting its oddities. Topics covered will include but not be limited to: the colonial efforts, the American Revolution, tariff policy, the Civil War, economic instability, the labor movement, and the Great Depression. By making use of multiple perspectives this class will also provide a context for the critical appraisal of competing historical explanations. It is my hope that your understanding of the facts will improve and simultaneously you will begin to relate the events of the past to the economic problems of the present.

Grading:

Evaluation of student performance will be based on two exams, two argumentative essays (past/present pieces), and class participation/notecards. The relative weights are as follows. A grade scale is listed below and each component is described in more detail.

Quizzes	25%	Every Friday
Critical Review	15%	6/15
Past/Present Piece #1	25%	5/11
Past/Present Piece #2	25%	6/12
Engaged Attendance	10%	Daily
Total	100%	

100-94 A, 93-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-73 C, 72-70 C-, 69-67 D+, 66-60 D, 59 > F

Quizzes

Quizzes will be multiple choice, T/F, and/or very short answer. They will be given every Friday. **You will be allowed to drop one quiz. No makeups will be given.**

Critical Review

You will be expected to write a 2-3 page review of a novel that is set in a period of American History. First, you will be expected to **briefly** summarize the novel. Second, you must comment on the connection between the novel and what we have learned about the historical period it is set in. Does the author accurately describe the time period? Do they take liberties? Are they warranted? Lastly, you **must** argue why the novel is relevant to discussions of economic history.

Suggested novels include *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, *Ragged Dick* by Horatio Alger, Jr., *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthurs' Court* by Mark Twain, *Looking Backward from 2000 to 1887* by Edward Bellamy, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. These novels are just suggested, **but all selections must be cleared through the instructor.**

Past/Present Pieces

The Past/Present Pieces (PPP) should be 5-6 page argumentative essays. You will pick a historical event, period, condition, or actor and argue for why they are relevant to modern day policy discussions. Your PPP should establish your understanding of the past event, the present event, and the connection between the two. Lastly, please be sure to argue for a specific understanding or course of action for the present, given your understanding of the past. Assume you are writing for someone who only has a basic understanding of economics.

Some general rules apply to the writing assignments. First, all of these assignments should be typed, double-spaced, using standard font sizes and margins. Second, your grade will be based in part on whether or not you have expressed yourself clearly. Spelling, grammar, and organization matter. **Third, if you use material from any source, you must clearly indicate your source, and if you directly quote any material, you must clearly indicate what has been quoted (along with indicating your source).** If you quote material without clearly indicating so, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you have any questions about this, please discuss them with me. Finally, late assignments will not receive full credit. If you know that you are going to miss class on the day an assignment is due, please make some arrangement for getting the work to me before class. **Late work will be docked 10% a day.**

Each PPP is divided into steps. Please look at the calendar below for due dates. For each PPP you will provide a topic and sources for approval, then an outline, and finally the finished product. The topic proposal should include a thesis statement and at least three sources. The outline should make it obvious how you will address the past event, present event, and how you will use them to establish your thesis. **Due dates are in the calendar below.**

If you need help with writing, then please visit the Writing Lab.
<http://bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/>

Engaged Attendance

Participation points will be based on one mandatory office visit and random attendance checks. Each student must meet with me for a private consultation in the first two weeks of the semester. If office hours are not convenient, then we can schedule a phone consultation. Students will also be expected to arrive on time each day. Attendance will be called at the beginning of class. I will select 11 days at random and grade your engaged attendance. You must not only be physically present, but also mentally engaged. I will drop the lowest of the 11 and the remainder will equal 10% of your final grade. **Attendance and preparation matter to your grade!!!**

Instructor Expectations

I expect students to show up to class prepared, participate in discussion, and not distract other students. If you and your personal electronics become a distraction to other students, then you will be dismissed for the day and warned. If it is a recurrent problem, then you will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for removal from the class and any disciplinary action that office deems appropriate.

Topics:

Apr 2-6	Syllabus and Introduction, Zinn Chapter 1, Transition to Capitalism
9-13	WR Ch. 2 and 3, Zinn Chapter. 2;
16-20	WR Ch. 4 and 5, Zinn Chapter 3, Topic Due and sources 4/20 (5%)
23-27	WR Ch. 6 and 7, Zinn Chapter 5, Outline Due 4/27 (5%)
30- May4	WR Ch. 8 and 9, Zinn Chapter 7
7-11	WR Ch. 10 and 11, TBA PPP #1 due: 5/11 (15%)
14-18	WR Ch. 12 and 13, Zinn Chapter 9
21-25	WR Ch. 14 and 17, Zinn Chapter 10, Topic Due and sources 5/25 (5%)
28-Jun 1	WR Ch. 18 and 19, Zinn Chapter 11, Outline Due 6/1 (5%)
4-8	WR Ch. 20, 21, and 22
11-12	WR Ch 23 and 24, PPP #2 Due 6/12 (15%)
Jun 15	Final Exam: Wednesday 6/15 at 9:30 a.m. Critical Review Due (15%)

This course schedule is intended to give students an idea as to the content of the course and a rough reading schedule. It is not meant to be taken as fixed, permanent, eternal, etc. If the need arises changes will be made.

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We Value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Student Code:

“Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.” The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Disability Resource Center (DRC):

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. . . Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at

www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Social Science Division Policies can be found at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/student_policies.asp Please familiarize yourself with them.