Required Readings:
Aitken, Hugh G. J., Scientific Management in Action
Blackford, Mansel G., and K. Austin Kerr, Business Enterprise in American History
Kidder, Tracy, Soul of a New Machine
McCraw, Thomas, Prophets of Regulation
and articles on reserve at the State Historical Society or available at Kinkos

Lecture Topics:

Sept.  5  Themes in American Business History
Sept.  7  Capitalism and Commerce

Sept. 10  Business in the Late Colonial Era
Sept. 12  Mercantilism and the American Revolution
Sept. 14  The 1780s: Property and the Role of Law
Read:  Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 1-63;

Sept. 17  The Federalist Era
19  Government and the Infrastructure
21  The Courts and American Business
Read:  Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 63-90, 104-46;

Sept. 24  American Industrialization: The First Stage
26  Precursor to "Big Business": The Textile Industry
28  The Railroads: I
Read:  Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 91-104, 149-59; and Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., "Rise and Evolution of Big

Oct.  1 The Railroads: II  
3 Accelerating Industrialization  
5 The Steel Industry  

Oct.  8 The Strategies of Big Business  
10 The Urge to Merge  
12 Finance Capitalism  
Read: Lamoreaux, The Great Merger Movement.

Oct.  15 Managerial Capitalism  
17 Exam  
19 Horatio Alger and Social Darwinism

Oct.  22 The Road to Regulation: The ICC and SAT  
24 Trustbusters  
26 The Origins of Big Government  
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 200-62; McCraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 1-152.

Oct.  29 The Industrial Worker  
31 World War I and American Business

Nov.  2 The 1920s: Dawn of a New Era  

Nov.  5 The 1920s: Multidivisional Decentralized Corporation  
7 The Stock Market Crash  
9 The Great Skid, 1929-1932  

Nov.  12 The First New Deal  
14 The Welfare State  
16 World War II  
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 321-40  
McCraw, Prophets, pp. 154-221.

Nov.  19 The Cold War and American Business  
21 The American Century  
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 343-78.

Nov.  26 The Automobile Industry
28 Mergers and Conglomerates
30 Big Government
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 380-420;
Tracy Kidder, Soul of a New Machine.

Dec. 3 Regulation and Deregulation
5 The Troubled 1970s
7 Hollywood's Favorite Heavy
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 422-37;
McCraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 222-309.

Dec. 10 1980s: Decade of the Deal
12 Made in America
14 Review
Reich, "The Next American Frontier," Atlantic Monthly (March
and April, 1983); and Hayes and Abernathy, "Managing Our Way to