History 247 (Section 2)  Professor Lindstrom
American Business History
Course Outline

Required Readings:

Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise in American History
Hughes, The Vital Few
Kidder, Soul of a New Machine
Sobel, The Great Bull Market
and articles on reserve at the State Historical Society or available at Kinkos.

Lecture Topics:

Jan.  20  Introduction to American Business History
       22  Capitalism and Commerce: The European Background
           Read:  Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 1-35.

Jan.  25  Planting the Southern Colonies
       27  The Northern Merchant
       29  Mercantilism and the American Revolution

Feb.  1  Private Property and the Law
       3  The Federalist Era
       5  The Business Revolution

Feb.  8  Experiences in Mixed Enterprise: Banking
       10  Experiences in Mixed Enterprise: Transportation
       12  Government, Business and the Civil War

Feb. 15  The Industrial Revolution:  A Stage Approach
       17  The Textile Industry
       19  American Manufacturing
           Read:  Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 82-121; and Hughes, Vital Few, pp. 121-213.
Feb. 22 Exam
24 The Railroads: I
26 The Railroads: II
Feb. 29 Distributing American Goods
Mar. 2 The Strategies of Big Business
4 The Urge to Merge
Mar. 7 Oligopoly and Bureaucracy
9 Horatio Alger and Social Darwinism
11 The Beginnings of Regulation: The ICC and the SAT
Mar. 21 Trustbusting in the Progressive Era
23 The Origins of Big Government
25 The Industrial Worker
Mar. 28 Exam
30 World War I
No discussion sections this week.
Apr. 4 The 1920s: The New Era
6 The 1920s: The Business of America is Business
8 1929-1932: The Great Depression
Apr. 11 The First New Deal
13 The Welfare State
15 Businessmen and the New Deal
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 316-337; and Hughes, Vital Few, pp. 455-570.
Apr. 18 World War II
20 The Cold War and American Business
22 A Giant Among Nations
Read: Blackford and Kerr, Business Enterprise, pp. 331-382; and "From Lean Years to Fat Years: The Labor Movement Between the Wars," in Chandler and Tedlow, The Coming of Managerial Capitalism, pp. 513-547.
Apr. 25 American Business in the Postwar Era
27 Mergers and Conglomerates
29 Multinationals
Read: Kidder, Soul of a New Machine.
May 2 Big Government
4 Regulation and Deregulation
6 The Troubled 1980s