

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1987-88

History 466 Professor Lindstrom
The American Economy Since the Civil War Era
Course Outline

Required Readings:

Brody, David, Steelworkers in America: The Nonunion Era
Brownlee, W. Elliot, Dynamics of Ascent
Porter, Glenn, Rise of Big Business
McGraw, Thomas, Prophets of Regulation
and articles on reserve at the State Historical Society or
available at Kinkos.

Lecture Topics:

- Jan. 20 Themes in American Economic History
22 The American Economy in 1865
Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 267-92.
- Jan. 25 Agriculture: Late 19th Century Trends
27 Sharecropping and Debt Peonage
29 Farm Discontent
Read: "The Long View of Southern Land and Labor," in
Gavin Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 51-80.
- Feb. 1 Railroads and Economic Growth
3 Railroads and Institutional Development
5 The Accelerating Industrial Revolution
Read: Porter, Rise of Big Business, pp. 1-71; "The
Union Pacific Railroad: The Questions of Public Policy," in
Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, The Reinterpretation of
American Economic History, pp. 417-425; and Brownlee, Dynamics of
Ascent, pp. 293-307 and 338-47.
- Feb. 8 The Spread of Big Business
10 The Urge to Merge
12 Oligopoly and Bureaucracy
Read: Porter, Rise of Big Business, pp. 71-101; and
"Carnegie and the American Steel Industry," in Jonathan Hughes,
The Vital Few, pp. 220-273.
- Feb. 15 Population and the Labor Force
17 The Worker in an Industrial Age
19 Income Inequality and Discrimination
Read: Brody, Steelworkers in America, pp. 1-179; and
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 319-49.
- Feb. 22 The Money Question
24 Fiscal Policy in the Gilded Age
26 Regulation: The ICC and the SAT

- Read: McGraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 1-142; and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 307-18 and 350-62.
- Feb. 29 Trustbusting in the Progressive Era
 Mar. 2 The Origins of Big Government
 4 Exam
- Mar. 7 World War I
 9 The 1920s: The New Era
 11 The 1920s: The Business of America is Business
 Read: Brody, Steelworkers in America, pp. 180-278; and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 363-408.
- Mar. 21 The Stock Market Crash
 23 The Great Depression
 25 Coping with the Financial Crisis
 Read: "Profile of the Depression" and "Monetary and Fiscal Policies During the Great Slide," in Lester Chandler, America's Greatest Depression, 1929-1941, pp. 1-13 and 111-26; and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 409-44.
- Mar. 28 The New Deal: I
 30 The New Deal: II
 Read: McGraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 143-221.
- Apr. 4 World War II
 6 World War II
 8 The International Economy in the Postwar Era
 Read: Robert Lekachman, The Age of Keynes, pp. 58-143; and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 445-77.
- Apr. 11 The 1950s and the Military-Industrial Complex
 13 Triumph of Keynesian Economics
 15 LBJ and the Great Society
 Read: Lekachman, Age of Keynes, pp. 205-301.
- Apr. 18 The Third Wave of Regulation
 20 Nixon, Ford, and Inflation
 22 Carter and the Conservative Tilt
 Read: McGraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 222-309; and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 478-513.
- Apr. 25 Big Business in the Postwar Era
 27 Mergers and Conglomerates
 29 Multinationals
 Read: Reich, "The Next American Frontier," Atlantic Monthly (March and April, 1983); and Hayes and Abernathy, "Managing Our Way to Economic Decline," Harvard Business Review (July-August, 1980), pp. 67-77.
- May 2 Mopping Up
 4 The Challenges from Abroad
 6 Reaganomics and the 1980s Economy