

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1990-91

History 466 **The American Economy Since the Civil War Era** Prof. Lindstrom
Course Outline

REQUIRED READINGS:

Aitken, Hugh G. J., Scientific Management in Action
Brownlee, W. Elliot, Dynamics of Ascent
Lamoreaux, Naomi R., The Great Merger Movement in American Business
Wright, Gavin, Old South, New South
and articles on reserve at the State Historical Society or available at
Kinkos

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Sept. 5 Themes in American Economic History
7 The American Economy in 1865
Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 267-92
- Sept. 10 Agriculture: Late 19th Century Trends
12 Farm-making in the Midwest
14 Farm Discontent
Read: Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 3-123; and
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 338-44
- Sept. 17 Railroads and Economic Growth
19 Railroads and the Institutional Development
21 The Industrial Revolution
Read: Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 124-97; and
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 293-307
- Sept. 24 The Age of Steel
26 We're Number 1
28 The Rise of Big Business
Read: Alfred Chandler, "Rise and Evolution of Big Business," in
Glenn Porter (ed.), The Encyclopedia of American Economic
History, II, pp. 619-38; and "Carnegie and the American
Steel Industry" in Jonathan Hughes, The Vital Few, pp. 220-73.
- Oct. 1 The Urge to Merge
3 Population and the Labor Force
5 Income Inequality
Read: Lamoreaux, The Great Merger Movement, pp. 1-158 and
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 319-338
- Oct. 8 The Dynamics of Discrimination
10 The Money Question
12 Fiscal Policy
Read: Aitken, Scientific Management in Action, and
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 307-18 and 350-62

Oct. 15 Regulation: ICC and SAT
 17 Progressivism
 19 The Origins of Big Government
 Read: Lamoreaux, The Great Merger Movement, pp. 159-94

Oct. 22 World War I
 24 Exam
 26 The 1920s: The New Era
 Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 363-408

Oct. 29 The 1920s: The Business of American is Business
 31 The Great Depression
 Nov. 2 Coping with the Financial Crisis
 Read: Lester Chandler, America's Greatest Depression, pp. 1-13, and
 111-43; and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 409-44

Nov. 5 The First New Deal
 7 Origins of the Welfare State
 9 World War II
 Read: Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 198-274

Nov. 12 Shaping the International Order
 14 Military-Industrial Complex
 16 Triumph of Keynesian Economics
 Read: Robert Lekachman, The Age of Keynes, pp. 58-112 and 266-301
 Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 445-77

Nov. 19 LBJ and the Great Society
 21 The Third Wave of Regulation
 Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 478-513

Nov. 26 The 1970s: Coping with Inflation
 28 Challenges from Abroad
 30 Reaganomics
 Read: Thomas McCraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 222-99

Dec. 3 Big Business in the Postwar Era
 5 Multinationals
 7 Mergers, Conglomerates, and Hostile Takeovers
 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.

Dec. 10 A Time of Transition
 12 Wealth and Welfare
 14 Review