

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1993-94

History 466

Professor Lindstrom

The American Economy Since the Civil War Era
Course Outline

Required Readings:

Brownlee, W. E., Dynamics of Ascent
McCraw, Thomas, Prophets of Regulation
Porter, Glenn, The Rise of Big Business
Temin, Peter, Lessons from the Great Depression
Wright, Gavin, Old South, New South
and two rather short readings on reserve at the State Historical Society

Lecture Topics:

- Sept. 3 The American Economy After the Civil War
Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 267-92.
- 8 Agriculture: Late Nineteenth Century Trends
- 10 Farm-making in the Midwest
Read: Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 3-123;
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 338-44.
- 13 Farm Discontent
- 15 Railroads and Economic Growth
- 17 Railroads and Institutional Development
Read: Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 124-97.
- 20 Accelerating Industrialization
- 22 The Age of Steel
- 24 The Strategies of Big Business
Read: Porter, The Rise of Big Business, pp. 1-58;
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 293-307.
- 27 The Urge to Merge
- 29 The World's Leading Manufacturing Nation
- Oct. 1 Demographic Trends
Read: Porter, The Rise of Big Business, pp. 58-120.
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 350-62.
- 4 The Labor Force
- 6 The Dynamics of Discrimination
- 8 Income Inequality
Read: William Lazonick, "Technological Change and the Control of Work," in
Howard R. Gospel and Craig Littler, Managerial Strategies and Industrial
Relations, pp. 110-36;
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 319-47.

- 11 Public Policy Issues
- 13 The Beginnings of Federal Regulation
- 15 Antitrust
 - Read: McCraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 1-152;
 - Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 307-16.
- 18 The Origins of Big Government
- 20 First Hour Exam
- 22 World War I
 - Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 363-82.
- 25 The 1920s: I
- 27 The 1920s: II
- 29 The Onset of the Great Depression
 - Read: Temin, Lessons from the Great Depression, pp. 1-87;
 - Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 384-420.
- Nov. 1 The First New Deal
- 3 The Second New Deal
- 5 World War II
 - Read: Temin, Lessons from the Great Depression, pp. 89-137;
 - McCraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 153-209;
 - Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 420-58.
- 8 The Cold War and the American Economy
- 10 American Technology Triumphant
- 12 The American Century
 - Read: Wright, Old South, New South, pp. 198-274.
- 15 The Triumph of Keynesian Economics
- 17 LBJ and the Great Society
- 19 Second Hour Exam
 - Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 458-97.
- 22 The Third Wave of Regulation
- 24 The 1970s
- 29 Reaganomics
- Dec. 1 The Automobile Industry in the Postwar Era
- 3 Still Bigger Business: Mergers and Multinationals
 - Read: McCraw, Prophets of Regulation, pp. 210-309.
- 6 About Face: The Retreat from Giantism
- 8 Farmers and Workers in the 1970s and 1980s
- 10 The New Inequality?
 - Read: Will Marshall and Martin Schram (eds.), Mandate for Change, pp. 1-50.
- 13 Is the United States Competitive?
- 15 Review