

ECONOMICS 113—AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Course website: <http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~olney/spring15/econ113>

Lecture: Tu Th 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 2060 Valley LSB

This syllabus is the contract between you and me. Please read it carefully. “I didn’t read the syllabus” is not an acceptable excuse for missing an exam or paper, overlooking a reading, and so on. Prof. Olney

Economics 113 is an upper-division course in which we study the history of the U.S. economy. We will survey over three hundred years of history but, of necessity, will focus more intensely on some periods and incidents in U.S. history than on others. The emphasis will be on economic events, factors, and explanations. One goal for this course is to demonstrate the applicability of the study of history to the analysis of present-day economic events. An equally important goal is to demonstrate the applicability of the study of economics to the understanding of historical events.

Professor's Office Hours

Professor Martha Olney, 691 Evans Hall, 510-642-6083, Olney@berkeley.edu. Twitter: @MarthaOlney #econ113
Drop-in: Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00, 691 Evans. Other times by appointment.

Prerequisite

Economics 1 (Introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics) is the only official prerequisite for this course. Some familiarity with the broad outlines of U.S. history will be presumed. We emphasize statistics, graphs, and economic theory, and put some emphasis on the ability to interpret econometrics results (which we’ll teach you how to do). Non-economics majors who have only taken Economics 1 will find the course challenging.

Adding the Course

The department relies completely on TeleBears for enrollment purposes. See [Summary of Enrollment Procedures](#) (<https://www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/home/enrollment-procedures>) and [How to Stay Enrolled in an Economics Course](#) (<https://www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/staying-enrolled>) on the Department of Economics website. See GSI Coordinator Jen Kwok (548 Evans, HeadGSI@econ.berkeley.edu), Econ Undergrad or Peer Advisors (539 Evans, ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu) for assistance.

Textbook and Reader

Required: Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy*, 12th edition, South-Western, 2014.

Required: Economics 113 Reader. Copy Central, 2576 Bancroft (510-848-8649). Or download & print from the library’s resources. See bCourses (files page) or the [course website](#) for full citations for reader articles.

Optional: For those unfamiliar with U.S. history, you may also wish to purchase any U.S. history textbook. A favorite of mine is John Faragher et al, *Out of Many*. You can find old editions online for a reasonable price.

Responsibilities and Requirements

My responsibilities are to come to class prepared, respond to and encourage questions and other appropriate class participation, oversee grading of assignments and exams, be available during scheduled office hours and as possible for scheduled appointments, and to stimulate an enthusiasm for economics and for learning.

Your responsibilities are to attend and participate in lecture three hours per week, attend and participate in section one hour per week, complete the assigned readings in a timely manner, participate in section discussions and small group activities, and complete the papers, problem sets, term paper, midterm and final examinations.

Letter of Introduction

For your second section meeting, please write a one-page letter of introduction of yourself to your GSI. Include your name and anything about yourself that you would like to share. Please include or embed a photo of yourself, as this will help your GSI learn your name. The paper will not be graded nor returned. Turn in a hard copy at your second section meeting.

Laptop, Cell Phone, and etc. Policy

Because of the negative externalities associated with activities other than note taking, no laptops are allowed in lecture unless required to accommodate disability. Tablet PCs and iPads flat on the desk and in use for note-taking are ok. Phones and other electronic devices not being used for note-taking should be silenced and put away in your backpack or bag, not left out on your desk or in your lap. You may use the calculator function on your smart phone as needed during group work. You may take photos of the screen with your phone.

E-mail Between You and the Instructors

Prof. Olney and the GSIs will use email to contact you. You are responsible for reading your email. Be sure your email address registered in the University's CalNet directory is correct, your spam filters are not set too tight, and that your inbox is not full. Emails sent by Prof. Olney are ultimately archived as "announcements" on bCourses. Check with your GSI for where his emails to you will be archived.

Prof. Olney sends all announcements by email. Some announcements contain links to additional readings from current news sources. If so indicated in the email, these readings are to be considered *required* assigned readings for the course. In that case, links will be added to the "additional required readings" folder at bCourses/files tab.

Emails sent to Prof. Olney or your GSI must have "Econ 113" plus a descriptor in the subject line. Email is not texting. Email is formal communication. Your emails to your instructors must begin with a salutation, use appropriate grammar and spelling (no txtng), and be signed with both first and last names. Emails that don't meet these minimums are deleted without being read.

Announcements Policy

No announcements are made in lecture. All announcements are sent by email. If you would like to submit a written announcement that can be emailed to all Econ 113 students, you should send it to Prof. Olney. Include a student name and contact info in the announcement. Prof. Olney reserves the right to edit all submitted announcements and to determine whether the announcement is relevant to Econ 113.

Piazza

We use Piazza in lieu of emails for questions & answers. Rather than emailing questions to your instructors, we encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. Use the search feature first to see if your question has already been asked and answered. Everyone – the instructors and students – then has the opportunity to answer your question. Answers can be edited, wiki fashion. The instructors can give a 'thumbs up' to good student answers. Others with the same question can see the conversation and chime in. No commercial postings. At the end of the term, students whose questions or answers receive the largest number of "good" votes from classmates and instructors will receive a few extra credit points.

The sign-up page is piazza.com/berkeley/spring2015/econ113. The access code is currently (1/17/2015) set to **econ113sp15** but is subject to change. If that access code doesn't work, check your email. The updated access code will be in an announcements email from Prof. Olney. If you have any problems using Piazza, email team@piazza.com.

Discussion Section

Attendance and participation in section enhances your understanding of the material and counts toward your grade. Section meets one hour per week. *You must attend the first section meeting or your space in this course will be given to another student.*

There are four discussion sections associated with this course. As of January 17, the section information is as shown below. Check the online schedule of classes (<http://schedule.berkeley.edu>) for updates. If you wish to change GSI, you must go through TeleBEARS. Because of space concerns, you **cannot** attend your GSI's other section.

GSI and email address	Sections (Locations correct as of Jan. 17)
Erik Johnson eajohnson@econ.berkeley.edu	101: Wed 10-11, 321 Haviland 102: Wed 9-10, 254 Sutardja Dai
Dmitri Koustas dkoustas@berkeley.edu	103: Mon 12-1, 285 Cory 104: Mon 11-12, 4 Evans

Special Accommodations

If you require assistance during an emergency evacuation, please be sure to tell Prof. Olney and the GSIs on the first day. If you require special accommodations due to learning or other disability, you should speak with Professor Olney **no later than January 29**. You will eventually need to obtain an evaluation form from [Disabled Students' Program](#), but don't wait until then to talk with Prof. Olney.

Course Grades

There are 500 points possible during the term. Your course grade will depend upon your performance on the following, with possible points as indicated:

NON-EXAM ASSIGNMENTS

Section participation (12 @ 3 points each)	36 points	
Lecture exercise participation (8-10 @ 2 points each)	16 - 20 points	
Response Papers (2 @ 15 points each)	30 points	
Problem Sets (2 @ 10 points each)	20 points	
Term Paper	<u>100 points</u>	
Maximum points for the non-exam assignments	200 points	(202-206 possible; 200 max)

EXAMS

Midterm (Tuesday, March 10)	100 points
Final Exam (Thursday, May 14, 8 - 11 a.m.)	<u>200 points</u>
Maximum points for the exams	300 points

Regarding the Non-Exam Assignments

200 of the 500 possible points in the term are based on your performance on the following non-exam assignments. Note that there are 202-206 possible points but the maximum number of points you can count toward your grade is 200. We won't drop assignments; we just won't count any points in excess of 200.

SECTION PARTICIPATION (36 POINTS POSSIBLE)

We expect you to attend section and to participate in group activities. Your GSI's section syllabus will provide detail on how these points will be earned.

LECTURE EXERCISE PARTICIPATION (16 - 20 POINTS POSSIBLE)

We expect you to attend and participate in exercises that take place during the "lecture" time (TuTh 11-12:30). We won't have in-class activities every day, but on those that we do, you earn 2 points for attending and participating. We anticipate having activities in 8 to 10 class sessions, possibly more. Be sure to legibly write your name on the "group participation" form available on those days in lecture.

RESPONSE PAPERS (30 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE; 15 POINTS PER PAPER)

Choosing one from each pair of articles noted below, you will write a response paper. Begin by *briefly* summarizing the article. At least two-thirds of the paper should be a critique of the article. In your critique, use the methodology that Prof. Olney presented on January 22. More details are on the [course website](#). The grading rubric for the response papers is also on the course website; check it before writing your paper.

Response papers should be 500-750 words with 1" margins on all sides, pages numbered, double-spaced, 11-12 pt font. It must be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. Other formats are not accepted. Put your name, your GSI's name, the date, your section number, and the word count at the top of the first page. The works cited page & the headings should be excluded from the word count. **Submit papers electronically on bCourses, assignments tab.** You are responsible for ensuring you have attached your paper properly and completed the bCourses submission process. All papers will be evaluated by the TurnItIn software (see [course website](#)) and graded by your GSI. More details are available on the course website.

Late penalty: Papers will be accepted up to two days late. Late papers lose 5 points for every day (or partial day) they are late. Submit 0-24 hours late, and you lose 5 points; submit 24-48 hours late, you lose 10 points. No submissions more than 48 hours late accepted.

Response papers are to be written on

1. Reader #4 by Sundstrom & David or Reader #5 by Lahey (due Tuesday, February 17, 11:59.00 p.m.)
2. Reader #14 by Olney ("Avoiding Default") or Reader #15 by Jalil (due Thursday, April 2, 11:59.00 p.m.)

PROBLEM SETS (20 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE; 10 POINTS PER PROBLEM SET)

There will be two problem sets during the term, due at 11:10 a.m. in lecture on February 5 and March 19. Submit papers in person at lecture on the due date. Problem sets will be posted on the [course website](#) (not bCourses). Solutions will be posted there as well.

TERM PAPER: USING HISTORY IN CONTEMPORARY DEBATES (100 POINTS POSSIBLE)

For this assignment, you will write an essay in which you evaluate an historical analogy for its ability to provide insight into a present-day issue. The briefest version of the assignment is this: Identify a contemporary issue; identify and discuss the economic history research on an apparently relevant historical episode; assert whether the economic history forms a proper historical analogy to the contemporary issue; construct an argument that supports your assertion. More detail is available on the [course website](#). The grading rubric for this assignment is also on the course website; check it before writing your paper.

Term papers should be 2,000-2,500 words with 1" margins on all sides, pages numbered, double-spaced, 11-12 pt font. The paper must be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. Other formats are not accepted. Put a title, your name, your GSI's name, the date, your section number, and the word count on the cover page. The cover page, works cited page, contents of any tables, and the headings should be excluded from the word count.

The paper is due Thursday, April 16, 11:10.00 a.m. via bCourses and in lecture. Submit electronically to bCourses at the assignments tab. You are responsible for ensuring you have attached your paper properly and completed the bCourses submission process. Submissions will be evaluated by the TurnItIn software (see [course website](#)). Bring a hard copy to lecture and submit it to your GSI before lecture begins on April 16.

Late penalty: Late papers lose 10 points for every day (or partial day) they are late. Submit 0-24 hours late, and you lose 10 points; submit 24-48 hours late, you lose 20 points; and so on.

Regarding the Exams

The midterm exam will be held on Tuesday, March 10 during the lecture period. The exam will cover the material presented in class, section, and the assigned readings through and including March 5. You will be provided with exam booklets. You will be allowed to bring one hand-written 4x6 card into the exam. Other than that card, the exam will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. No calculators, laptops, phones, or other electronic devices allowed during exams. Each exam will consist of several short-answer or essay-type questions and map or graph or table identification question(s). There will be no true/false or multiple choice questions. Old exams are on the [course website](#).

No make-up exams are scheduled. If you experience an emergency that is clearly unforeseeable and unavoidable that prevents your attendance at the exam, you must contact **both** your GSI and Professor Olney immediately by **both** e-mail and phone message. If your GSI and Professor Olney do not both hear from you by 12:30 p.m. the day of the exam, you will definitely receive a zero (0) on the exam. Explain the situation and provide documentation. Professor Olney will consider your case and determine whether to offer accommodations. Depending upon why you missed the exam, you may still receive a zero on the exam even if they do hear from you.

Student-athletes and musicians are expected to be familiar with the policy on academic conflicts:

http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/committees/cep/guidelines_acadschedconflicts_final_2014.pdf.

Notification of scheduled conflicts must be delivered to Prof. Olney by the end of the second week of classes.

The final exam will be on Thursday, May 14, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. **If you have or anticipate a conflict with the final exam, you should DROP THIS COURSE NOW.** Conflicts include nonrefundable tickets, weddings, and other commitments that require that you leave campus before May 14. Military commitments will be accommodated. Having 3 or 4 finals back-to-back is (crazy &) not an excuse to miss or reschedule the final. Regardless of your grade going into the final, if you do not take the final you will receive an "F" in this course.

On the final, some questions will deal with just the material presented since the midterm, and some questions will span the entire course. The last question of the exam will be a comprehensive essay question that is designed to have you pull together the material from the entire term. At the next-to-last class, we will distribute the comprehensive essay question that will be on the final. You must write your answer during the final exam period, but you will have the advantage of being able to think ahead about how you will organize your essay. You will be allowed to bring one hand-written 4x6 card into the final. Old finals are available on the course website.

Grading of Exams

All exams are short answer, problems, and essay questions. Answers are graded solely upon their content and not upon their intent. This means that we don't grade what you "mean to say" but what you actually write (even if you "knew the answer but just couldn't put it into words"). Moreover, answers that are illegible, rambling, or poorly organized will not receive high marks.

Your work will be graded by the graduate student instructors. There is no pre-set or common scale whereby a certain number of points corresponds to a certain letter grade. There is also no fixed curve for this course dictating what share of students will receive what letter grade. As we begin the term, it is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A. It is equally possible for everyone to earn a C. Even though there is no fixed curve, grade distributions are reasonably stable over time (as the Law of Large Numbers would suggest). Past performance of students in Economics 113 suggests that about 30-35 percent of the class will receive an A of some sort, about 40-45 percent will receive a B of some sort, and the remainder will receive C's or below.

This course can be taken Pass/Not Pass if you are otherwise free to do so. You can not take this course P/NP if you are fulfilling a requirement for the economics major. P/NP students are expected to do the same work as other students and will receive scores on all assignments. If the course grade is a C- or better, a P/NP student will receive a Pass. P/NP students must pass the final in order to pass the course.

Fire Alarm Policy

A truly annoying bad habit at UCB is the pulling of fire alarms by ill-prepared and selfish students who foolishly think their entire future rests on the grade on one midterm. This is a crime, punishable by a fine and time in jail. In addition, anyone caught pulling the alarm will fail the course and is subject to expulsion from the University. If the alarm is pulled during an exam, the class will move outside and finish the exam in the allotted time. In this event, follow the instructions of the GSIs.

Honor Code

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted this Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." Your instructors join you in pledging to adhere to this code.

Academic Honesty Policy

In fairness to students who put in an honest effort, cheaters will be harshly treated. Any evidence of cheating will result in a score of zero (0) on that assignment. Cheating on the term paper or an exam results in an "F" for the course. Cheating includes but is not limited to bringing unauthorized written or electronic materials into an exam, using unauthorized written or electronic materials during an exam, copying off another person's exam or assignment, allowing someone to copy off of your exam or assignment, and having someone take an exam or assignment for you. Incidences of cheating are reported to Center for Student Conduct, which administers additional punishment.

Academic honesty also applies to the papers. You must properly cite any source that you use. Do not copy from another source; that is plagiarism and is a violation of the University's Code of Student Conduct. But plagiarism doesn't end there! You also cannot rephrase what someone else has written without giving them credit, and you can't use someone else's idea without giving them credit. To give someone credit, include a footnote or an imbedded reference.¹ If you are unsure if what you are about to write (without attribution) is plagiarism, ask Prof. Olney or your GSI and consult <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html>. Economists use Chicago style. We're happy to help.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

The reading assignments are either from the textbook (shown below as "Walton & Rockoff, Chapter . . .") or the Economics 113 Reader (shown below as "Reader # . . ."). Class discussion will generally supplement (not duplicate) the material in the readings.

Tuesday, January 20	Introduction to Course; The Study and Relevance of Economic History; Framework: Economic Growth READ: Walton & Rockoff, Chapter 1 Reader #1 (Eichengreen, "Economic History and Economic Policy") Reader #2 (Logan, "A Time (Not) Apart")
Thursday, January 22	Methodology: Critiquing an Argument; Sources of Productivity Growth; Native American Activity in and before the Colonial Period READ: Walton & Rockoff, Chapter 5 (pp. 77-88 only)
Tuesday, January 27	Gains from Trade; Land Expansion; Northwest Ordinance; Westward Expansion; Indian "Removal" READ: Walton & Rockoff, Chapter 8 Reader #3 (Wishart, "Evidence of Surplus Production")

¹Note that footnote numbers go at the end of the sentence, not in the middle.

Thursday, March 19 PS #2 due in lecture	Explanations of the Great Depression READ: Reader #14 (Olney, "Avoiding Default") Reader #15 (Jalil, "Monetary Intervention")
Tuesday, March 24 Thursday, March 26	Spring Break Spring Break
Tuesday, March 31	Explanations of the Great Depression: The Recovery READ: Reader #16 (Romer, "What Ended The Great Depression?")
Thursday, April 2 RP #2 due tonight	New Deal; 1930s Federal Policy READ: Walton & Rockoff, Chapters 24 Reader #17 (Rose & Snowden, "Origins of Modern Real Estate Loan Contract")
Thursday, April 2 at 11:59.00 pm	Response Paper #2 (re: article #14 or #15) due via bCourses
Tuesday, April 7	Post-WWII Macro Trends and Policy; Inequality READ: Walton & Rockoff, Chapters 26 (pp. 490-498), and Chapter 28 Reader #18 (Piketty & Saez, "Income Inequality in the United States")
Thursday, April 9	Rise of the Service Sector, Productivity Growth Slowdown and Resurgence READ: Walton & Rockoff, Chapter 29 Reader #19 (Rowthorn & Ramaswamy, "Deindustrialization")
Tuesday, April 14	From the S&L Crisis to the 2007-8 Financial Crisis READ: Reader #20 (Mian & Sufi, "House Prices")
Thursday, April 16 Term Paper due at beginning of lecture	Financial Crisis, Continued
Thursday, April 16, 11:10.00 am	Term Paper due electronically via bCourses <u>and</u> bring hard copy to lecture
Tuesday, April 21	Demographic Changes; Women in the Labor Force READ: Reader #21 (Bailey, "More Power to the Pill")
Thursday, April 23	Immigration Trends & Effects READ: Reader #22 (Feliciano, "Educational Selectivity in U.S. Immigration")
Tuesday, April 28	Evaluations; Distribution of Final Essay Question; Saving; Education; Economic Growth READ: Catch-up!
Thursday, April 30	Catch-up!! Synthesis, Review, and Concluding Remarks
Thursday, May 14	FINAL EXAM, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m., place to be announced