**The College of New Jersey**  
**School of Business**  
**Course Syllabus Fall 2010**

**Course:** Econ 115-01 - American Economic History  
**Prerequisites:** None

**Professor:** Thomas P. Breslin Ph.D., Professor of Economics

**Office:** School of Business Building 131  
**Office Hours:** 12 Noon to 2PM T/F and by appointment  
**Office Telephone:** 771-2891  
**E-Mail:** Breslin@TCNJ.EDU


**Class Meeting Times:** Tuesday and Friday @ 10AM to 11:50AM

**Classroom:** School of Business Building 105

**Course Description:**

The primary focus of the course is to examine how economics impacted the historical events from Colonial times to the end of World War II. Basic economic theory and applied statistics will be utilized to examine the historical development of the United States during this specific time period.

**Specific Objectives:**

a. To provide an economic perspective on the demographic transition that led to British domination of North America relative to the native population and other rival European nation-states.

b. To examine what economic factors determined the path of development in the colonies.

c. To analyze the commercial relations and commodity exchanges of the colonies, the legal and business aspects of their shipping and trade, and the special problems of money, capital, and debt in overseas and domestic commerce.

d. To examine the sources of economic growth in per capita income in the colonies and how these sources lifted the colonial economy to a position where it could become independent from England.

e. To examine the financial, administration, and political reasons that led to
misguided policies, mismanagement, and ill timing from England that led the colonies to an independent course.

f. To examine the economic consequences of the Revolutionary War.
g. To analyze land policies and the early western movements and the economic implications that resulted.
h. To analyze developing transportation systems mode by mode to help understand the long-term economic growth and the location of people and economic activity.
i. To analyze the role that labor played in the early industrial period in the United States.
j. To examine early experiments in establishing both a money system as well as a banking system.
k. To analyze slavery in the United States from a social, political, and an economic point of view.
l. To examine the economic consequences of the Civil War.
m. To evaluate the economic impact that the railroads had on the rate of economic growth after the Civil War.
n. To examine the factors that led to industrial expansion and concentration of industry in the United States.
o. To examine the emergence of America’s labor consciousness from a social, political, and economic prospective.
p. To examine the economic consequences of World War II.
q. To examine the economic factors that existed during what has come to be known as the “Roaring Twenties”.
r. To examine the various schools of thought regarding the reasons for and the consequences of the Great Depression.
s. To analyze the economic consequences of the “New Deal”.
t. To examine the economic consequences of World War II.

Grading: Three major examinations and one research paper will be the primary basis for measuring performance in the course. The examinations will be administered on the dates listed below. Failure to take the examination/s scheduled date/s will result in a zero being recorded for that/those examination/s. Students can only be excused from taking an examination on the scheduled day by presenting an approved medical excuse to the instructor at least one week before the scheduled make-up examination. Students who are excused for medical reasons will have an opportunity to take the examination/s on November 17, 2010 at 12:30PM in the School of Business Building room 106.

Research Paper: A research paper topic will be assigned to each student on or before the fourth week of this semester. The research paper will consist of ten double spaced pages and include all proper documentation. This research paper is due on December 7, 2010. Under no circumstance will the research paper be accepted after this date. Failure to present the research paper on this date will result in a zero being recorded for this assignment.
Examination Schedule: 
Examination # 1 October 8, 2010
Examination # 2 November 5, 2010
Examination # 3 Refer to Final Exam Schedule

Final Grade Determination: 
Examination # 1 = 25% = 100 points
Examination # 2 = 25% = 100 points
Examination # 3 = 25% = 100 points
Research Paper = 25% = 100 points

Grading Scale: 
94 – 100 = A minimum points 376
90 – 93 = A- 360
86 – 89 = B+ 344
82 – 85 = B 328
78 – 81 = B- 312
74 – 77 = C+ 296
70 – 73 = C 280
66 – 69 = C- 264
62 – 65 = D+ 248
58 – 61 = D 232
Below 58 = F

Attendance Policy: All students are expected to attend every class. Leaving before the scheduled ending of the class and being tardy will not be tolerated.

Topics and Chapters to be Covered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Chapter/s (Walton and Rockoff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Founding the Colonies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Colonial Economic Activities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The Economic Relations of the Colonies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Economic Progress and Wealth of the Colonies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Three Crises and Revolt</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Hard Realities for the Nation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Land and early Westward Movements</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Transportation and Market Growth</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Market Expansion and Industry in the First Transition</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Labor During the Early Industrial Period</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
k. Money and Banking in the Developing Economy
l. The Entrenchment of Slavery and Regional Conflict
m. War, Recovery, and Regional Divergence
n. Agriculture’s Western Advance
o. Railroads and Economic Change
p. Industrial Expansion and Concentration
q. The Emergence of America’s Labor Consciousness
r. Money, Prices, and Finance in the Postbellum Era
s. Commerce at Home and Abroad
t. World War I
u. The Roaring Twenties
v. The Great Depression
w. The New Deal
x. World War II