

San José State University
College of Social Science / Economics Department

Econ 113A Economic History of the United States Spring 2026

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Paul Lombardi
Office Location:	DMH 131
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Email:	paul.lombardi@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm or by appointment/Zoom
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:15 pm
Classroom:	DMH 357
Prerequisites:	Sophomore or Upper Division Standing

Class Resources

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Course Description

Economic analysis of U.S. and Canadian history to the mid-20th century and its application to understanding the causes, pattern, and consequences of economic development. Prerequisite: Sophomore or Upper Division Standing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Specific CLOs for this course include:

- 1) Identify the general features and possible causes of the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions and explain how those two transformations relate to the economic development of the United States;
- 2) Be familiar with the contours and pattern of North American economic history, from before European contact until the mid-twentieth century;
- 3) Appreciate how economic theory enriches our understanding of historical particulars, with emphasis on the impacts of war, chattel slavery, migration, and trade, both regional and international.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook (Recommended)

1. Rockoff, Hugh, and Gary M. Walton. *History of the American Economy*, 12th Edition. (Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning, 2014). ISBN: 978-1-111-82292-7

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

- There are four components to your grade: three exams (30%), in-class discussions (30%), student presentation (25%), and homework assignments (15%).
- The exams will have short-answer questions, and each will be worth 10% of your final grade. Exams dates are 2/26, 4/9, and 5/14. Note that the third exam occurs during our final exam slot (i.e., Thursday 5/14 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm in the regular classroom--DMH 357)
- Students will participate in several in class discussions and short quizzes
- Students will make a five-minute presentation. The project will discuss the students' choice of American institutions and associated economic growth. The final project will be due during week 15. However, intermediate steps leading up to the final project will be due during the two weeks leading up to week 15.
- There will be three homework assignments during the semester immediately before each exam. Student submissions will need to be handwritten. The assignments will help prepare students for the subsequent exam.

Grading Information

Corresponding letter grades will be assigned as follows:

97 to 100% A plus	87 to 89% B plus	77 to 79% C plus	67 to 69% D plus	
93 to 96% A	83 to 86% B	73 to 76% C	63 to 66% D	
90 to 92% A minus	80 to 82% B minus	70 to 72% C minus	60 to 62% D minus	59 to 0% F

Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will have a grade deduction of 30 percent. No credit is provided for any later submissions without prior approval.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/Academic_Calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain the instructor's permission to record the course. "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material." "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course, such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

Academic Integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires the approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability

Economic History of the U.S., Econ 113A, Spring 2026 Course Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change. If changes are needed, I will make announcements through email and Canvas.

Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics, Assignments, and Exams	Assigned Readings
0	1/19-1/25/26	Discuss Syllabus and Course Structure	
1	1/26-2/1/26	Review of Supply and Demand models	
2	2/2-2/8/26	Founding the Colonies and their Economic Activities	RW Ch 2 and 3
3	2/9-2/15/26	Colonial Economic Relationships and Growth	RW Ch 4 and 5
4	2/16-2/22/26	War of Independence and Consequences (HW1 Due)	RW Ch 6 and 7
5	2/23-3/1/26	Discuss Homework One and Review: Exam One 2/26/26	

Week	Dates	Topics, Assignments, and Exams	Assigned Readings
6	3/2-3/8/26	Westward Movement and Market Growth	RW Ch 8 and 9
7	3/9-3/15/26	Markets and Labor During the Early Industrial Period	RW Ch 10 and 11
8	3/16-3/22/26	Money and Banking and Entrenchment of Slavery	RW Ch 12 and 13
9	3/23-3/29/26	(HW2 Due) Discuss Homework Two and Review:	
10	3/30-4/5/26	Spring Break	
11	4/6-4/12/26	Exam Two 4/9/26 War Recovery and Western Advance of Agriculture	RW Ch 14 and 15
12	4/13-4/19/26	Expansion of Railroads and Industrials	RW Ch 16 and 17
13	4/20-4/26/26	Labor and Commerce	RW Ch 18 and 20
14	4/27-5/3/26	The Great Depression and New Deal (HW3 Due)	RW Ch 23 and 24
15	5/4-5/10/26	Student Presentations and Review for Exam 3	
16	5/11-5/14/26	Final Exam on Thursday 5/14/26 1:00 pm -3:00 pm	