1 Overview

This class will examine the past to uncover the roots of current economic dilemmas. What determines American economic growth? We’ll examine the causes of growth such as population, technology, and industrial structure. Then we’ll see how that economic growth was distributed across different regions of the United States and across different groups in the economy. We’ll also examine one of the solutions to the problems caused by economic growth: the rise of big government.

The readings for this class are

2. A packet of readings available at Graphic Arts

All items are available at the reserve desk at Dewey.

2 Grades

1. 3 in class exams - 70%
2. 4-5 problem sets - 30%

The problem sets will range from numerical exercises (designed to have you think about the readings) to short essays based on sources other than the required readings (designed to help you on the exams).

For the exams you will be asked to write three essay questions using material from the problem sets, the readings, and the lectures.

3 Important Dates

1. Tuesday, February 16: MONDAY SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
2. Thursday, March 4: NO CLASS, PROFESSOR IN CANADA
3. Thursday, March 11: FIRST EXAM
4. Tuesday, March 23: SPRING BREAK
5. Thursday, March 25: SPRING BREAK
6. Tuesday, April 13: SECOND EXAM
7. Tuesday, April 20: VACATION (PATRIOT’S DAY)
8. Thursday, April 22: DROP DATE
9. Thursday, May 13: LAST EXAM

4 Course Outline

4.1 Overview
1. Atack and Passel, ch. 1

4.2 Measuring Living Standards

4.3 Technology and Industrial Structure
2. Atack and Passel, ch. 7, 16-17

4.4 The South
1. Atack and Passel, ch. 11-12, 14
4.5 The Problem of Race


4.6 Changing Labor Markets

1. Atack and Passel, ch. 19


4.7 Financial Markets

1. Atack and Passel, ch. 4, 18

4.8 The Rise of Government

1. Atack and Passel, ch. 23


4.9 The Great Depression

1. Atack and Passel, ch. 20-22
