

Fall 2012

ECON 4524-001

## Economic History of the United States

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**Professor** : *Lee J. Alston*

**Email** : *Lee.Alston@colorado.edu*

**Office** : *ECON 202*

**Office Hours** : *T,R 11:00 - 12:00*  
*(And by appointment 303-492-4257)*

**Class Schedule and location:**

*9:30-10:45 Econ 119*

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### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

### II. REQUIREMENTS

The final grade is determined as follows:

Exam 1 : 20%

Exam 2: 40%

Exam 3: 40%

### III. READINGS

Readings will include both books and articles. Assigned articles and book chapters are listed in the course schedule. The following books are required for the class and are available for purchase at the UMC bookstore:

American Economic History (Eighth Edition) by Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain (H&C)

Some articles will be available on line on the course website at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/eb/alston/econ4524/>

\*If reading assignments change somewhat during the course of the semester, you will be notified in advance.

### IV. SCHEDULE

Dates to Remember:

Exam 1 - Oct 9

Exam 2 - Nov. 11

Final Exam

Aug 28 Do I Want To Take This Class?

Aug 30 Thinking About Long Run Economic and Political Development

Alston, Melo, Mueller and Pereira "Why Nations Succeed" (on website)

Sept 4 Indentured Servitude: The Market for Moving Free People to America

H&C: Chapter 1 (pp. 9-12)

Sept 6 The Institutional Background

H&C: Chapters Chapter 2 (pp.39-42); chapter 5 (pp. 87-90)

Articles of Confedera702 660.7 Tm[ )]TJET Tv1T/F3 1TC BT/F11 12 Tfh8 0 1 BDC BT/MCID

- Oct. 11      The Wild West: The Use and Abuse of Natural Resources  
& 16  
    Libecap, "Property Rights in ..."  
    Alston, Harris and Mueller "The Development of Property Rights...."
- Oct 18              Water Rights in the American West
- Oct 23      The Iron Horse and Economic Growth  
    H&C: Chapter 14
- Oct. 25      Finance and Regulation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Regulation  
    H&C: Chapter 18
- Oct. 30      The Great War  
    H&C: Chapter 22
- Nov 1          Roaring Twenties: Farms Failing and Banks Busting  
    H&C: Chapter 23
- Nov 6          Business Cycles  
    Video

Higgs, "On Ideology as an Analytical ..."

Dec 4            The New Frontier and the Great Society: Why then?  
Alston and Ferrie, "Southern Paternalism ....."

Dec 6            The Legal Migration of Mexicans

Dec 11