STATE AND ECONOMY IN INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, 1870-1940

Some Ground Rules

1. Formal office hours are Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., although my door is generally open when I'm in. A call or email before you walk over is a good idea.

2. The readings on this list have been chosen with care to raise interesting and provocative questions about the history of the United States between the Civil War and World War II. Please read every item on the list, and be prepared each day for discussion in class. The course is intended as a seminar, with no lectures or directed discussions. Questions, opinions and the free exchange of ideas are strongly encouraged, since much of the success of the course will depend on your willingness to address hard questions in class and explore your answers in light of the responses of others. Class participation, which is not the same thing as agreeing with anyone else or being correct each time you speak, will comprise a significant part of your final grade.

3. In addition to regular attendance and participation, course requirements include (1) two 2000-word essays, selected by the student, from the six Class Essays whose due dates are indicated on the syllabus; (2) a 2000-word final essay, due on December 3; and (3) short response papers containing two discussion questions on the day's readings for at least sixteen of the twenty-four class discussions.

4. Incompletes are strongly disfavored and will be granted only under conditions of bona fide personal exigency.

Texts

The following paperback books can be purchased at Broad Street Books or from many online booksellers:


Frederick Winslow Taylor, The Principles of Scientific Management (1911).

Opinions of the United States Supreme Court are available online at many sites, including http://supreme.justia.com/us/ and http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html. One important book, Ellis Hawley, The Great War and the Search for a Modern Order (1992), is out of print and will be posted on the course Moodle. All other readings on the syllabus are available on electronic reserve at http://eres.olin.wesleyan.edu, from which single copies for personal use may be downloaded. The password is <econ254>.
Reading Assignments

1.) Order and Planning (Wednesday, September 3)


2.) Contracts (Monday, September 8)


3.) Inside Contracting (Wednesday, September 10)


4.) Scientific Management (Monday, September 15)

    Taylor, The Principles of Scientific Management (1911).

5.) Taylorism (Wednesday, September 17)


    Aitken, Taylorism at Watertown Arsenal (1960), pp. 3-48.


CLASS ESSAY 1 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6.) States and Persons (Monday, September 22)

    Constitution of the United States, Amendment XIV (1868).


7.) **Contracts and Persons** (Wednesday, September 24)


8.) **Persons and Rights** (Monday, September 29)


9.) **American Collectivism** (Wednesday, October 1)


CLASS ESSAY 2 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

10.) **Managerial Capitalism** (Monday, October 6)


11.) **The Crisis of Republicanism** (Wednesday, October 8)


12.) **Antitrusts** (Monday, October 13)


13.) Deciding for Bigness (Wednesday, October 15)


CLASS ESSAY 3 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

14.) War and Planning (Wednesday, October 22)


15.) War is the Health of the State (Monday, October 27)


16.) Managing Prosperity (Wednesday, October 29)


17.) Hoover in Despair (Monday, November 3)


CLASS ESSAY 4 DUE IN CLASS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

18.) The End of Scarcity (Wednesday, November 5)


19.) **National Solutions to National Problems** (Monday, November 10)

   Hawley, *The New Deal and the Problem of Monopoly* (1966), pp. 3-204.

20.) **The Nation as an Economic Unit** (Wednesday, November 12)


CLASS ESSAY 5 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

21.) **The American Revolution of 1937** (Monday, November 17)


   United States v. Darby, 312 U.S. 100 (1941).

22.) **Mr. Walras Comes to Washington** (Wednesday, November 19)


CLASS ESSAY 6 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

23.) **Total War** (Monday, November 24)


24.) **Summing Up** (Monday, December 1)

FINAL ESSAY DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3