STATE AND ECONOMY IN INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, 1870-1940

Some Ground Rules

1. Formal office hours are Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 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 – one essay must respond to Class Essay 1, 2 or 3, and the other to Class Essay 4, 5 or 6; (2) a 2000-word final essay, due on December 7; 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:


Opinions of the United States Supreme Court are available online at many sites, including my favorite, [http://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-supreme-court](http://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-supreme-court). 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 7)


2.) **Contracts** (Monday, September 12)


3.) **Inside Contracting** (Wednesday, September 14)


4.) **Scientific Management** (Monday, September 19)


5.) **Taylorism** (Wednesday, September 21)


CLASS ESSAY 1 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

6.) **Managerial Capitalism** (Monday, September 26)


7.) **The Crisis of Republicanism** (Wednesday, September 28)


8.) **Antitrusts** (Monday, October 3)


9.) **Deciding for Bigness** (Wednesday, October 5)


**CLASS ESSAY 2 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5**

10.) **States and Persons** (Monday, October 10)

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


11.) **Contracts and Persons** (Wednesday, October 12)


12.) **Persons and Rights** (Monday, October 17)

Scruton, "Corporate Persons," 63 *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society,*
Supplementary Volume (1989), pp. 239-266.


13.) American Collectivism (Wednesday, October 19)

Veblen, Imperial Germany and the Industrial Revolution (1915), pp. 150-173.


CLASS ESSAY 3 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

14.) War and Planning (Wednesday, October 26)


15.) War is the Health of the State (Monday, October 31)


16.) Managing Prosperity (Wednesday, November 2)


17.) Hoover in Despair (Monday, November 7)


CLASS ESSAY 4 DUE IN CLASS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7
18.) **The End of Scarcity** (Wednesday, November 9)


19.) **National Solutions to National Problems** (Monday, November 14)

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

20.) **The Nation as an Economic Unit** (Wednesday, November 16)


**CLASS ESSAY 5 DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

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


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

22.) **Mr. Walras Comes to Washington** (Monday, November 28)


**CLASS ESSAY 6 DUE IN CLASS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

23.) **Total War** (Wednesday, November 30)


24.) **Summing Up** (Monday, December 5)

FINAL ESSAY DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7