Economics 764 provides a survey of the economic history of the United States with a focus on the impact of social conflict.

My office is 926 Thompson Hall, E-Mail: gfriedma@econs.umass.edu. Hours by appointment.

Required readings are marked with a star *. Class discussions will focus on these readings. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and prepare at least 6 papers assessing the week’s readings; papers should be submitted (as email attachment) before 5 PM on Tuesday before class. In addition, you should prepare research proposal including a research plan and an annotated bibliography of the literature on a research question of your choice. Students will present these papers in class after Spring break.

1. **Introduction: Approaches to Economic History**


*Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, “The Communist Manifesto, Part I”

*__________________________, “Eleven Theses on Feuerbach”

*Donald McCloskey, "Does the Past Have Useful Economics?,”* Journal of Economic Literature (1976), 434-61.


E. H. Carr, *What is History?* 


Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream: The ‘Objectivity Question’ and the American Historical

2. Europeans and New Worlds
*Sven Beckert, Empire of Cotton
Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel.
Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, Time on the Cross, ch. 1.

3. Markets and the Colonial Economy
*Sven Beckert, “Merchants and Manufacturers in the Antebellum North,” pp. 92-122 in Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds., Ruling America.


4. **Economics of Early Republic: Property**


5. **Economics of Early Republic: Technological Change**


*__________, “Learning by Doing and Tariff Protection: A Reconsideration of the Case of the
Ante-Bellum United States Cotton Textile Industry,” in David, Technical Choice
*___________, “The Horndal effect’ in Lowell, 1834-56,” in David, Technical Choice
*Ken Sokoloff, “Was the Shift from the Artisanal Shop Associated with Gains in Efficiency?” Explorations in Economic History 21 (October 1984), 351-82.

6. Economics of Early Republic: Proletarianization
*Gordon, Edwards, and Reich, Segmented Work, Divided Workers, ch. 3.
Herbert Gutman and Ira Berlin, “Class Composition and the Development of the American


7. **Slavery and Revolution: Economics of Slavery and Civil War**


Adam Rothman, “The ‘Slave Power’ in the United States, 1783-1865,” pp. 64-91 in Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds., *Ruling America*


8. **Slavery and Southern Reconstruction**


9. Corporate Capitalism: Technology and Proletarianization


*Gordon, Edwards, and Reich, Segment Work, Divi ded Workers, ch. 4.


10. **Corporate Capitalism: Monopoly Capitalism**

11. **Class, Socialism, Unions, and American Exceptionalism**
*Sean Wilentz, "Against Exceptionalism: Class Consciousness and the American Labor Movement," *International Labor and Working Class History* (Fall 1984), 1-37.


________, “The Collapse of a Social Movement: The Interplay of Mobilizing Structures, Framing, and Political Opportunities in the Knights of Labor.” In *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings.* Doug McAdam, John McCarthy, and Mayer Zald, eds. New York, Cambridge University Press: 1996

12. **An American Welfare State?**


Gosta Esping-Anderson, *Politics Against Markets: The Social Democratic Road to Power*

Barbara Fried, *The Progressive Assault on Laissez Faire: Robert Hale and the First Law and
Rosanne Currrarino, “‘The Revolution now in progress’: social economics and the labor question,” Labor History 50:1 (2009), 1-17.
Gary Marks, Unions in Politics: Britain, Germany, and the United States in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries (Princeton, 1989).

14. Great Depression

15. Unions and a New Deal Labor Accord?
*Gordon, Edwards, and Reich, *Segmented Work, Divided Workers,* ch. 5.


16. **Breakdown?**


Fraser and Gerstle, eds., *Ruling America*, chs. 7-8.


Gerald Friedman, “Workers without employers: shadow corporations and the rise of the gig economy” ms.


_____________, “Is Labor Dead?” *International Labor and Working-Class History* 75:1 (March 2009), 126-144.


17. Crisis?


Wolfgang Streeck, “Piketty, the Global Tax on Capital, and the Fiscal Crisis of the State,” ms. 2015.


Anant Thaker and Elizabeth Williamson, “Unequal and Unstable: the Relationship between Inequality and Financial Crises.”