

**ECON 4774-001: Topics in Economic Development, History and Political Economy**

Instructor: Murat Iyigun

Office: Economics Building, Room 103

Phone: (303) 492-6653

E-mail: [murat.iyigun@colorado.edu](mailto:murat.iyigun@colorado.edu)

URL: <http://stripe.colorado.edu/~iyigun>

Class Schedule: M-F 9 – 12 noon in MUEN E417.

Office Hours: M 12 – 1:30 p.m. and by appointment.

Textbooks: There are four required textbooks for this class:

- 1) *The Rise and Decline of Nations* by Mancur Olson (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press), 1984, reprint.
- 2) *War, Peace and Prosperity in the Name of God* by Murat Iyigun (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press), 2015.
- 3) *A Culture of Growth: The Origins of the Modern Economy* by Joel Mokyr, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), 2017.
- 4) *Rulers, Religion and Riches* by Jared Rubin (Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press), 2017.

There will also be periodic assignments of published articles that will be e-mailed to the class or can be accessed via our library weblinks.

Course Objectives: Sustained economic growth is a relatively recent economic phenomenon that came about due to the Industrial Revolution and as a result of which the standards of living improved dramatically in the Anglo-Saxon West since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, global inequality has also risen to unprecedented levels because other parts of the world still significantly lag the West in economic, social and political terms. In this class, we shall study the comparative development paths of Anglo-Saxon Europe and the Middle East. In doing so, we shall primarily focus on the five books required for the class.

The class is also intended to provide an insiders' perspective on the writing of a book (*War, Peace and Prosperity in the Name of God*) by studying the literature, history and ideas that inspired various components and the key ideas which led to the book.

Assignments and Grading:

The final grade for the class will be determined as follows:

Take Home Midterm	30 %
Class Participation	30 %
Final Exam	40 %

No makeup exams or substitute grading assignments will be given. The only exceptions are covered by campus guidelines on absences due to religious observance (see below).

Exam Absence:

If you fail to show up for an exam with out an acceptable excuse (such as an illness that can be documented with a medical note or you have been given permission by me to take a make-up exam), you will get a zero for that exam.

Classroom Behavior: *Turn your cell phones and laptops off.* If you use your laptop for class purposes, you are required to sit in the last row of the classroom.

Harassment Policy:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member or faculty member who believes (s)he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, age disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at (303) 492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at (303) 492-5550.

Disability Accommodations:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Absences due to Religious Observance:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html) If you have scheduling conflict covered by this policy, please let me know at least one week in advance so that we can reschedule the relevant assignment.

Academic Integrity:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policies of UCB. Violations of these policies may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct should be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu) or (303) 725-2273).

Preliminary Course Outline:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8/7	The Course Mechanics and Logistics Introduction & Facts to be Explained
8/8	A Framework for Analysis The Solow Growth Model The Relevant Empirical Facts about the Big Picture
8/9	Jones, Pritchett and Temple articles.
8/10	<i>The Rise and Decline of Nations</i> (Chs. 1, 2, 3)
8/11	<i>The Rise and Decline of Nations</i> (Chs. 4, 5, 6)  * * * *
8/14	<i>A Culture of Growth</i> (Chs. 1 thru 5, 6)
8/15	<i>A Culture of Growth</i> (Chs. 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15)
8/16	Nunn, AJR, Iyigun, Nunn and Qian papers
8/17	<i>War, Peace and Prosperity in the Name of God</i> (Preface, Chs. 1, 2, 3, 4)
8/18	<i>War, Peace and Prosperity in the Name of God</i> (Chs. 5 thru 11) <b>Take Home Midterm</b>  * * * *
8/21	<i>Rulers, Religion and Riches</i> (Chs. 1, 2, 3)
8/22	<i>Rulers, Religion and Riches</i> (Chs. 4 thru 9)
8/23	Iyigun and Rubin article.
8/24	<b>Final Exam</b>