

Economic History of Europe

Economics 4514

Course Syllabus and Reading List

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Objectives of the course:

This course examines the transformation of European economies from a circumstance in which Malthusian population pressure on resources was the dominant historical force to one in which the growth of population and income per-capita has become the norm for industrialized countries. This transformation, covering the period from roughly 1200-1900, marks one of history's great changes, yet the underlying causes of the process are not completely understood. This course aims to provide both historical perspective and experience in the application of economic analysis to major issues. The topics of the course divide into three chronological and logical sections. The first examines the preconditions of European economic development, paying particular attention to the demographic, technological and institutional changes that supported growth. The second section focuses on the Industrial Revolution in England and Europe, asking what exactly it was, how can it be measured and who benefited? The third examines the establishment, or not, of modern economic growth in other European economies. The examination of these themes will combine the historical literature with the theoretical constructs of economics. This course also enables us to explore the question "why are some so rich and some so poor?"

Research in the issues of economic history often requires us to combine our qualitative understanding of the historical context together with quantitative analysis of the data available. This course will show you many examples of how research in the historical past may be thus approached.

Requirements and Evaluation:

This course will be a combination of lecture material and in-class discussion. Students are expected to have done the specified readings before class and will be called upon to answer questions or to discuss points raised during the class. You are responsible for all the material on the reading list.

Your grade will have the following components:

2 Midterms (20% each)	40%
Group article presentation and paper	20%
-presentation (10%)	
-paper (10%)	
Final Exam	30%
Class participation	10%

Group Presentation:

You will be in a group of 3-4 and be responsible for a 25 minute presentation of a journal article from the reading list. This presentation will be followed by questions on your article from the class and from Professor Shiue. You will know the date and article for your presentation by the mid-September. Prior to your presentation, each group may schedule an optional organizational meeting with Professor Shiue. On the day of the presentation, each group will hand in a six page written assessment of the article and a one-page handout for the class. The six page assessment will briefly summarize the article, and place the article in context and discuss its strengths and weaknesses.

Examinations:

There will be two examinations. The midterms will be an in-class, closed book exam, scheduled for October 3 and November 7. Midterms will ask for short answers on analytical questions. The final will be a take-home comprehensive exam and will ask you to assess articles from the course in an essay response. The final will be posted by Friday December 5 and due in my office no later than Monday, December 15 at 1 pm. All final examinations must be double spaced and typed.

Attendance: The success of this class depends in large part upon your participation. This in turn requires you to do the readings and show up on a consistent basis because you cannot participate if you don't show up. I will factor your attendance as part of the class participation grade.

Policy on Late Work: NO makeup examinations for missed exams and NO late papers will be accepted. If you miss the midterm or group presentation due to an emergency, you must present adequate documentation of the emergency or your grade for that exam will be zero.

Honor Code: Cheating and plagiarism are academic offenses and any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be sanctioned. If there is any person in the class who is uncertain about what constitutes either cheating or plagiarism, he/she should consult me the University of Colorado Catalog. In addition, obtaining material from "pre-written" sources is *definitely* considered an academic offense! Department policy regarding disabilities and religious holidays is given on the first page of the course site <www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses>

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 If you have scheduling conflict covered by this policy, please let me know by the third week of class.

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty: Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon 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. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Topic Outline and Readings

The articles and chapters listed below can be found either under E-Journals in the Chinook Catalogue or the course reserves on Chinook. All readings are required unless otherwise announced. Do not take this class if you do not think you can or want to spend a lot of time each week reading. The dates given for each part serve only as a guide and may be changed as needed as the class progresses.

Required Text:

- Rondo Cameron and Larry Neal, *A Concise Economic History of the World*, 4th ed
- Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches*

Part I. August 25 – Oct 1 (weeks 1-6)

1. Introduction: The Economic History of the World

Week 1

- Cameron and Neal, ch. 1 and 2
- Fogel, Robert. (2004). *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100, Europe, America and the Third World*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-21.

Week 2

- Jared Diamond, *Guns Germs and Steel*, ch. 10 (E-reserve)
- Robert C. Allen, "Agriculture and the Origins of the State in Ancient Egypt," *Explorations in Economic History* **34**(2): 135-154 (April 1997).

2. Europe First - When and Where? Europe in the World Economy

Week 3

- Gregory Clark, "Living Standards", ch 3 in *Farewell to Alms*. (E-reserve)
- Peter Temin, "The Economy of the Early Roman Empire," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* **20**(1): 133-151 (Winter 2006).
- Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence, China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, "Europe before Asia? Population, Capital Accumulation, and Technology in Explanations of European Development". (E-reserve)
- Carol H. Shiue and Wolfgang Keller, "Markets in China and Europe on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution" *American Economic Review*, September 2007.

3. Economic Growth and Living Standards: Meaning and Measurement

Week 4

- Richard H. Steckel, "New Light on the 'Dark Ages': The Remarkably Tall Stature of European Men during the Medieval Era." *Social Science History* **28** (2004), 211-29.
- Robert C. Allen, "The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War", *Explorations in Economic History*, Vol 38, October 2001: 411-47.
- Ozmucur, Suleyman and Sevet Pamkut, (2002). "Real Wages and Standards of Living in the Ottoman Empire, 1489-1914," *Journal of Economic History* **62**(2): 225-47.

Sept 19 Library Class Session

Weeks 5 and 6

- Debraj Ray, *Development Economics*, “Economic Growth” and “New Growth Theories” (E-reserve)
- Easterlin, Richard A. 1981. Why Isn't the Whole World Developed? *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 41(1): 1-19.

Part II. Oct 6 – Nov 5

3. The Economics of Population

Weeks 7 and 8

- E.A. Wrigley and Roger S. Schofield, *The Population History of England, 1541-1871: A Reconstruction*, Ch. 11. (E-reserve)
- David R. Weir, “Life Under Pressure: France and England, 1670-1870” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Mar., 1984), pp. 27-47
- Cormac O'Grada, *Black '47 and Beyond: The Great Irish Famine* pp. 3-46. (E-reserve)

Group #1 - E.A. Wrigley “Explaining the rise in marital fertility in England in the ‘long’ eighteenth century” *Economic History Review*, August, 1998.

Group #2 - Kevin O'Rourke “Did the Great Irish Famine Matter?” *Journal of Economic History*, March 1991.

4. Medieval Europe: Resources and Expansion and Agricultural Change

Week 9

- Cameron and Neal, pp. 165-168, ch. 3
- Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches*, chs. 3 and 4
- E.L. Jones, *European Miracle*, chs. 3 and 4 (E-reserve)
- Robert C. Allen, *Enclosures and the Yeoman*. (E-reserve)
- D. McCloskey, “The Prudent Peasant: New Findings on Open Fields” *The Journal of Economic History*, 51(2), June 1991.

5. Institutional Change

Week 10

- Cameron and Neal, pp. 154-155
- Douglass North, “Institutions” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 5 (2), 97-112
- E.L. Jones, *The European Miracle*, Ch. 5 (E-reserve)

Group #3 - Douglass North, and Barry R. Weingast, “Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England” *Journal of Economic History*, December 1989.

Group #4 - DeLong, J. Bradford and Andrei Shleifer. 1993. Princes and Merchants: City Growth Before the Industrial Revolution. *Journal of Law and Economics* 36(5): 671-702.
Download from: http://econ161.berkeley.edu/pdf_files/Princes.pdf

6. The Rise of States and Empires: Trade and Finance

Week 11

- Cameron and Neal ch. 5
- E.L. Jones, *The European Miracle* 6, 7
- Ann M. Carlos “Joint-Stock Trading Companies”, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*, ed. Joel Mokyr, Oxford University Press, 2003. (E-reserve)
- Larry Neal, “The Finance of Business During the Industrial Revolution”, in Floud and McCloskey, ch. 7. (E-reserve)

Group #5 - Avner Greif, “Reputation and Coalitions in Medieval Trade: Evidence on the Maghribi Traders” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 49, No. 4 (Dec. 1989), pp. 857-882

Group #6 - Ann Carlos, Jennifer Key, and Jill L Dupree, “Learning and the Creation of Stock Market Institutions,” *Journal of Economic History* 58 (1998) 318-34.

Part III. Nov 10 – Dec 5

7. The Industrial Revolution - Technological Change: Nature and Origins

Week 12

- Cameron and Neal, ch. 7
- Mokyr, Joel (1999), “Introduction.” In J. Mokyr (ed.), *The British Industrial Revolution*. (E-reserve)
- Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches*, chs. 7 and 11

8. Quantitative Dimensions of British Change

Week 13

- N.F.R. Crafts, British Economic Growth During the Industrial Revolution ch. 3 in Floud and McCloskey. (E-reserve)
- C. Knick Harley, “British Industrialization before 1841: Evidence of Slower Growth during the Industrial Revolution”, *Journal of Economic History*, June 1982.

Group #7 - Gregory Clark, “Farm wages and living standards in the Industrial Revolution: England 1670-1869”, *Economic History Review*, August 2001

Group #8 - Jeffrey G. Williamson "Why Was British Growth So Slow During the Industrial Revolution?", *The Journal of Economic History* > Vol. 44, No. 3 (Sep., 1984), pp. 687-712

Week 14 (Fall Break No Classes)

9. Inequality – Divergence in Living Standards

Week 15

- P.H. Lindert and J.G. Williamson, “English Workers’ Living Standards During the Industrial Revolution: A New Look”, *Economic History Review*, February 1983.
- Pritchett, Lant (1997). “Divergence, Big Time,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11(3): 3-17.

Group #9 – Jan de Vries (1994), "The Industrious Revolution and the Industrial Revolution," *Journal of Economic History* 54(2): 249-70.

Group #10 –Hans-Joachim Voth, “Time and Work in Eighteenth Century London”, *Journal of Economic History* 58, pp. 29-58

Week 16, Last week of class. Summary and Review. Dec 8 - 12