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**History of Economic Development**  
**Economics 8764-001**  
Fall 2012 Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45 pm, Econ 5.

Professor Carol H. Shiue, email [shiue@colorado.edu](mailto:shiue@colorado.edu), Econ 206B, Tue & Thur 2-3 p.m.

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## Course Outline

### Overview

This course examines competing explanations for cross-country differences in long run economic growth, addressing the question, “why are some countries so rich and other so poor” from a historical and comparative standpoint. The core issues that we examine cover the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and focus attention on Britain and Northwestern Europe because that is where economic growth first occurred. Knowledge of standard analytical tools and empirical techniques of macro and micro is strongly recommended.

This course has several objectives: the first is to show how theoretical approaches and quantitative tools can be applied to historical evidence. The second objective is to introduce students to research and paper writing in economic history and other applied fields of economics. We will be reading and discussing articles to learn how a research article is put together. You will also have many opportunities in this class to pose your own questions and present your ideas. This is a skill that is of immense value as you start to enter into the dissertation-writing phase of your program and will be spending more of your time doing research in economics. With practice, you will also feel more comfortable and confident in seminars, whether the seminar is your own or someone else’s.

### Course Requirements

Classes will consist of lecture and student presentation and discussion. The course list is intentionally long, to provide you with references and background for that section. For each class meeting, you should read carefully one paper, which is indicated in bold type on the reading list. These are labeled “Student’s presentation” and are the papers that everyone should read carefully for each class. Published articles can be accessed via the library website; most working papers are available via an online search. Talk to me if you can’t find something.

35 minute presentations of research papers, totaling 30% of your grade. Students should have an organizational meeting during the first week of class to discuss who will be presenting which paper. Most papers fall into a certain format and presenting papers will help you understand the structure of economics paper in detail. We will talk about the sequence of the slides, and what to put into the slides. Please email me your presentation 4 days before you are presenting so that I can review your slides and give you feedback to help make the slides clear and of benefit to everyone in the class.

Class participation, 20% of your grade. Those who are not presenting should carefully read the paper that is being presented that day and write-up 3 slides for class discussion.

Slide 1: What is good about the paper?

Slide 2: What is a weakness of the paper?

Slide 3: An idea for further improvement, or ideas for further research.

After the main presentation I will randomly call on someone to present his/her three slides. This person will act as the discussion leader while everyone shares their own ideas on the topic. The idea is to encourage more discussion and class participation in an environment which is like a real seminar.

A midterm 5-page (double-spaced) draft of your paper proposal and presentation, 20% of grade. The proposal should motivate a question in economic history and discuss existing research that is related to that question. The topic may come from the syllabus, but you may select a topic that is not on the syllabus. The draft should be a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages. Please send me your draft 4 days before your presentation.

A final 15-page (double-spaced) draft of your proposal and in-class presentation, 30% of grade. Ideally this will be the same proposal that you worked on for the midterm presentation. You should include in your proposal reference to potential data sources and how these data can be used to address your key questions; aim to be as specific as you can about your strategy and approach. These presentations will take place during the last week of class. I will be happy to give you feedback on your slides if you send them to me in advance.

The final draft is due by December 17, 2012.

#### Topics Outline

1. Introduction and overview of stylized facts of long-run growth. 2 lectures
2. Malthusian Model 2 lectures
3. Demographic Transition 2 lectures
4. Solow Model 3 lectures
5. Proximate Explanations of Growth
  - a. Agricultural Revolution 2 lectures
  - b. Technology 1 lecture
  - c. Property Rights and Institutions 2 lectures
  - d. Trade and Market Efficiency 2 lectures
6. Fundamental Explanations of Growth
  - a. Geography and Factor Endowments 2 lecture
  - b. Institutions 2 lectures
  - c. Culture 1 lecture
7. The Spread of Industrialization and its Impact on Growth
  - a. Economics of the Family 2 lecture
  - b. Social mobility 1 lecture
  - c. Transportation and Social Saving 1 lecture
  - d. Migration 1 lecture