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**Economics in Action: World Economic History**  
**Economics 4999-002**

**Spring 2007 Tuesday & Thursday 2-3:15 pm, GUGG 2.**

Professor Carol H. Shiue, email [shiue@colorado.edu](mailto:shiue@colorado.edu), Econ 206, TR 3:30-5 pm and by appt.

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## Course Outline and Reading List

### Introduction

This course provides an overview of the long-run evolution of the economic history of the world and the economic structure of these societies. As the potential scope of study is exceedingly broad, we will only cover select topics from the Medieval period to the present century. What happened to the world's standard of living and modes of economic production over this period, and why? We consider the pre-industrial economy, the turning point of modern growth and industrialization, and the economic developments since 1800.

This course has two goals. The first goal is to help students acquire some basic knowledge about world historical events. The second aim of the course is to offer students the opportunity to improve their skills in writing a research paper, and speaking and presenting in a group setting.

### Course Requirements

This is an upper-level undergraduate course (junior or senior standing) that meets the "critical thinking" requirement. The class will require a considerable amount of reading and writing from you. It differs from the typical CU course in that classes are capped at 25 students in order to allow for student participation during classroom time. Consequently, the course is held as a combination of lecture material, student presentations, and in-class discussion. There is also a substantial writing component to this class.

### Grading

Class participation, discussion assignments	30%
- class participation (15%)	
- discussion assignments (15%)	
Midterms	20%
Article presentation and discussion	20%
Research paper & presentation	30%
- paper (20%)	
- presentation (10%)	

### Prerequisites

Students are expected to be comfortable with the material from Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 3070) and Intermediate Macroeconomics (Econ 3080). Students who do not have the prerequisites, or are unsure whether they have adequate preparation for understanding the material in the class should speak with me.

### **Class participation and discussion assignments**

The success of this class depends on your attendance and active participation during class. Please read the articles in advance, and then come to class prepared to ask questions and comment on the article being presented. You will get much more from the discussion this way. Students are expected to attend all other students' presentations. You may be absent from these presentations no more than two times. After that, each absence will result in a penalty of five points, up to a maximum of 30 points.

To encourage you to engage in class discussions, I will ask you to do some preparations at home. Over the semester, I will send by email short discussion assignments for which you will be asked to write a one-paragraph response. Grading is as follows: Not handed in: 0 points. Could have been written without reading the assigned article: 1 point. Thoughtful response relevant to the assigned article: 2 points.

### **Examinations**

There will be two midterm examinations. No makeup examinations for missed exams.

### **Research Paper**

For the paper, you choose a topic early in the course and prepare a short proposal describing the topic you plan to write about. The proposed paper must have something to do with the material studied in this class. This proposal should be 5 pages.

You will then write a 15 page paper on this topic. The professor will comment on this draft, provide suggestions for further work, and you will prepare a substantially revised version of this paper.

February 22. The 5 page proposal is due. Attach to this proposal a list of references you intend to use in your research.

March 22. A complete draft of your paper is due. The paper you hand in should be complete and have full references. You will receive written comments on your paper the first week of April.

May 5. Use the written comments and input from paper presentation to revise your paper. The research paper is due in Professor Shiue's office by 2 pm on Saturday, May 5. The paper must be double-spaced and typed.

### **Presentations**

Each student will make two in-class presentations. One will be of an article on the reading list. You are being asked to provide not just a summary of the article but a critical assessment. Students should provide a handout for the class on the day of the presentation of the article, and be prepared to lead a discussion of the argument. The second presentation will be of his/her course paper during the final weeks of class.

### **Policy on academic honesty**

Submitted work should reflect the student's own efforts. 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 the University of Colorado Catalog. Obtaining material from "pre-written" sources available on the internet will result in course failure. Department policy regarding disabilities and

religious holidays is given on the first page of the course site  
<[www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses](http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses)>

### **Required Text**

(AWH) *Atlas of World History Concise Edition*, edited by Patrick K. O'Brien. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2005).

### **Recommended Reference**

*So You Have to Write an Economics Term Paper*, L. Officer. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press (1985).

### **Reading List**

Readings can be accessed via the links provided or under E-Journals in the Chinook Catalogue. Other readings are accessible from JSTOR or the library's electronic journal collection.

#### **1. Introduction: Meaning of Growth, Pattern of World Development, and Definitions**

(1) Massimo Livi-Bacci (1997). *A Concise History of World Population*, p. 10-34.

(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.

#### **Part I**

#### **2. Pre-industrial Life: Living Standards, Wages, Health**

(3) Clark, Gregory (2007), chapters 2 & 3 of *Farewell to Alms*.

(4) AWH, p. 106-107 and p. 128-129; 142-143.

(5) Steckel, Richard. "Health and Nutrition in Pre-Columbian America: The Skeletal Evidence." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 36 (Summer 2005), 1-32.

(6) 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.

(7) Ozmuur, 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.

#### **3. Demographic factors: Fertility and Mortality before the Industrial Revolution**

(8) Clark, Gregory (2005), chapter 4 of *Farewell to Alms*.

(9) Wrigley, E.A. (1998). "Explaining the rise in marital fertility in England in the 'long' eighteenth century" *Economic History Review*, 51(3): 435-464.

(10) Clark, Gregory (2005), chapter 5 of *Farewell to Alms*.

#### **4. Determinants of Markets and Trade**

(11) Shiue, Carol H. and Wolfgang Keller. "Markets in China and Europe on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution," October 2005, <http://spot.colorado.edu/~shiue/MarketsChinaEurope.pdf>

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

## **5. Agriculture and Forced labor**

(13) AWH, p. 122-123 and p. 126-127.

(14) O'Brien, Patrick (1982). "European Economic Development: The Contribution of the Periphery" *The Economic History Review* New Series, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Feb.), pp. 1-18

(15) Stanley Engerman and Kenneth Sokoloff (2000). "Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Path of Development in the New World" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14(3): 217-232.

(16) Domar, Evsey (1970), "The Causes of Slavery or Serfdom: A Hypothesis," *Economic History Review* 30:1 (March), pp. 18-32

## **Part II**

### **6. The British Industrial Revolution**

(17) AWH, p. 168-171.

(18) Clark, Gregory (2005), chapter 12 of *Farewell to Alms*.

(19) Mokyr, Joel (1999), "Introduction." In J. Mokyr (ed.), *The Industrial Revolution: An Economic Analysis*.

(20) McCloskey, D.N. (1981) "The Industrial Revolution 1780-1860: A Survey." in Floud, R. and D. N. McCloskey (eds), *The Economic History of Britain since 1700*, Vol. I, 103-127.

(21) Berg, M. and Hudson, P. (1992), "Rehabilitating the Industrial Revolution" *Economic History Review* 45(1) 24-50.

(22) Temin, Peter (1997). "Two Views of the British Industrial Revolution" *Journal of Economic History*, 63-82.

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

### **7. Determinants of Modern Economic Growth**

(24) Clark, Gregory (2005), chapter 11 of *Farewell to Alms*.

(25) Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson (2005). "Institutions as the fundamental cause of long-run growth." In Philippe Aghion and Steve Durlauf (eds.), *Handbook of Economic Growth*, 385-471.

(26) North, Douglass C., and B. R. Weingast (1989). "Constitutions and Commitment: Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice." *Journal of Economic History* 49(4): 803-32.

(27) Clark, Gregory (1996). "The Political Foundations of Modern Economic Growth: England, 1540-1800." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, XXVI: (4) 563-588.

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

(29) Wolcott, Susan and Gregory Clark (1999). "Why Nations Fail: Managerial Decisions and Performance in Indian Cotton Textiles, 1890-1938." *Journal of Economic History*, June

(30) Wright, Gavin. (1990). "The Origins of American Industrial Success, 1879 to 1940" *American Economic Review* 651-68.

### **Part III**

#### **8. The Spread of Industrialization after the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

(31) AWH, p. 278-279.

(32) Baumol, William J. (1986). "Productivity Growth, Convergence, and Welfare: What the Long-Run Data Show" *American Economic Review* 76(5).

(33) Pritchett, Lant (1997). "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11(3): 3-17.

(34) Easterlin, Richard A. (2000). "Worldwide Standard of Living Since 1800," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14(1): 7-26.