1. Bunzl 2004 Counterfactual history: a user's guide *The American Historical Review*

   "Counterfactuals" have many similarities to the potential outcomes approach of the Rubin causal model I will discuss in the lecture, and this paper argues that they may be useful in certain situations.

   Review questions:
   - How are causal and counterfactual statements related?
   - How can we distinguish plausible and implausible counterfactuals?
   - Without imagination or natural laws, what should guide counterfactual reasoning?

2. Froyeman 2009 Concepts of Causation in Historiography *Historical Methods*

   This is a helpful review of some concepts of causation and their typical uses in historical writing.

   Review questions:
   - What is Hume's legacy?
   - What is the method of difference?
   - What are causal processes?
   - What are historical narratives, and how do they use causation?
   - Are counterfactuals historical narratives? Do they employ causal processes?
   - Are causal claims possible in a Braudelian writing of history?

3. Wong 2011 Causation *A concise companion to history*

   I will lecture from this chapter, and to my knowledge it is not available electronically. So: I will not assign review questions. But it is available in several Oxford libraries.

4. Heckman 2000 Causal Parameters And Policy Analysis In Economics: A Twentieth Century Retrospective *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*

   This is an older paper than I would normally consider appropriate for graduate teaching, but it is a good summary of empirical thinking about causation in economics up to the mid-1990s, and so complements the Angrist and Pischke paper well.

   Review questions:
   - What is the identification problem?
   - What is the difference between a causal effect and a structural parameter?
   - What is the Lucas critique?
   - What were the perceived limitations of the Cowles research program?
   - Describe the "structuralist" approach to the perceived limitations of the Cowles research program.
   - Describe the "VAR" approach to the perceived limitations of the Cowles research program.

- What are the aims of sensitivity and bounding analyses?
- What motivates calibration exercises, and what criticisms does Heckman cite of this approach?
- What motivates the use of natural experiments, and what criticisms does Heckman cite of this approach?

5. Angrist and Pischke 2010 The Credibility Revolution in Empirical Economics: How Better Research Design is Taking the Con out of Econometrics *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

   This is a review article that complements the Angrist and Pischke book that I use as a supplemental text in QM2. It covers empirical work mostly from the mid-1980s to the late 2000s. It was intended to be a triumphant summary of a successful research program, but I will cover critiques made later in the same issue of the *JEP*.

   Review questions:
   - What criticisms did Leamer make of econometric practice, and what were his proposed solutions?
   - Why do Angrist and Pischke believe there is less con in econometrics c. 2010 than in 1983? In particular, what do they mean by "better research design"?
   - What role do Angrist and Pischke see for sensitivity analyses?
   - What recommendations do Angrist and Pischke make for research in macroeconomics and industrial organization?
   - Do Angrist and Pischke believe that external validity is compatible with good research design?
   - How do Angrist and Pischke respond to the concern that the focus on research design leads economists to neglect important questions?

6. Nunn 2009 The Importance of History for Economic Development *Annual Review of Economics*

   This too is a review article. I assign it for two reasons. First, it is a fairly comprehensive review that should bring you up to date on the literature on the long-run effects of historical events as it stood in 2009. Nunn has a more recent review in the *Handbook of Economic Growth*, though it is longer and makes a similar argument to what is in this paper. Second, a good chunk of this review could be interpreted as "here's how the techniques summarized by Angrist and Pischke have affected economic history since 2000."

   Review questions:
   - Nunn lists ten studies on the first page that he believes employ "more satisfying identification strategies" than previous papers. He summarizes each in his review. For each of these ten, i. summarize the identification strategy used, ii. explain why this is a credible approximation of a random experiment, iii. suggest plausible threats to identification that could undermine this credibility.
   - Through what mechanisms does history continue to affect the present?

7. Ashraf and Galor 2011 Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch *American Economic Review*

   I have chosen this paper in order to introduce you to regression in case you have not seen it before. It is a simple paper that uses simple OLS and presents simple scatterplots, and so it is very transparent. I assign it for replication in the first week of QM2. It is also an excellent introduction to the Malthusian model, which is important across a range of economic history research.

   Review questions:
   - How do Ashraf and Galor handle the possible endogeneity of technological progress? Suggest plausible threats to identification.
   - One of the key results in Ashraf and Galor is a "null" effect on income per capita. What unique challenges do they face in establishing the credibility of this result, and how do they address them? See the *Science* papers below for more on null effects in science.

8. Bleakley and Ferrie 2013 Shocking Behavior: Random Wealth in Antebellum Georgia and Human Capital Across Generations August 2013 *NBER Working Paper 19348.*

   I typically avoid assigning unpublished papers until the paper has received an invitation to revise and resubmit from a top-10ish journal. Even so, I have assigned this because I am not aware of any other recent economic history papers (apart from another paper by these authors) in which the individuals studied were assigned to treatment in a manner as closely approximating a randomized control trial.

   Review questions:
   - To what extent does the Georgia land lottery approximate the conditions of a randomized control trial?
   - Bleakley and Ferrie emphasize widespread registration, the large prize, and the "pure wealth shock" nature of the prize as features of the lottery that are useful for researchers. Why are these characteristics advantageous?
   - Does this paper inform theory?
   - What is the purpose of column 4 in table 1?
   - What is the purpose of table 5?
   - What is the purpose of table 8?

9. Hornung 2014 Immigration and the Diffusion of Technology: The Huguenot Diaspora in Prussia *American Economic Review*

I assign this paper for replication in QM2 as an introduction to instrumental variables. I choose it because it is recent, relevant to economic history, published well, and has easily available replication data and code online. As posting data and code becomes a more accepted norm, i. it becomes easier for me to teach methods to students with actual examples, ii. it becomes easier for you to teach yourself methods by downloading data and code for your own use, and

iii. the importance of keeping a well-organized workspace with well-commented code that allow both you and others to replicate what you have done increases.

Review questions:

- Why might the simple correlation of percent Huguenots in 1700 and productivity in textile manufactories in 1802 fail to give a causal estimate?
- Why are the controls in column 6 of table 2 insufficient to provide a causal estimate?
- To what extent do population losses in the 30 years war approximate the conditions of a randomized control trial? Identify some plausible threats to identification.
- What is the purpose of Table 8?
- What is the purpose of Table 9?

10. Naidu and Yuchtman 2013 Coercive Contract Enforcement: Law and the Labor Market in 19th Century Industrial Britain *American Economic Review*

I assign this paper for replication in QM2 as an introduction to differences in differences. It is recent, relevant to economic history, published well, and has easily available replication data and code online.

Review questions:

- What purpose do δ_d and δ_t serve on page 124?
- To what extent does the interaction of the output price with a dummy indicating the presence of an industry in a county approximate the conditions of a randomized control trial? Identify some plausible threats to identification.
- To what extent do distance from Lancashire and the presence of iron ore production in a county approximate the conditions of a randomized control trial? What particular concerns are these used to address?
- What is the purpose of column 1 in Table 4?

11. Dell 2010 The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita *Econometrica.*

I assign this paper for replication in QM2 as an introduction to regression discontinuity. As with the other papers above, it is recent(ish), relevant to economic history, published well, and has easily available replication data and code online. Regression discontinuity has become a standard tool in economics and political science – indeed, it is difficult to publish work on questions such as "what is the effect of a female governor" or "what is the effect of a Muslim MP" or "what is the effect of a Republican congressman" without using a close-elections RDD. Economic and social history have lagged in the use of RDDs, though Melissa Dell and Noel Johnson both have active working papers using boundary RDDs, while Frye has a recent working paper using close elections to assess the effects of the Indian Reorganization Act.

Review questions:

- Why might the simple correlation between modern development and location within the *mita* region fail to give a causal estimate?

- Why does Dell restrict her sample to the boundary segments shaded white on page 1864?
- To what extent does location on one side of the *mita* boundary approximate the conditions of a randomized control trial? Identify some plausible threats to identification.
- What is the purpose of Table 1?
- Why does Table 2 have three separate panels? Why are there multiple columns for each dependent variable?

12. Miguel et al. 2014 Promoting transparency in social science research *Science*
13. Nosek et al. 2014 Promoting an open research culture *Science*

These last two papers are mostly for fun, and are relevant to the "Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science" article that made the news recently. A big push for a discipline-wide transformation of research methods in economics is underway, and this is a part of it.

Review questions:

- What is the file drawer problem, and how does it affect our ability to estimate causal relationships?
- What steps are journals taking to promote transparency? To what extent are these practices encouraged by journals in economic or social history?