

International Economics

Academic year 2024-2024

Economic History

EI095 – Autumn - 6 ECTS

Wednesday 14h15 - 16h00

Course Description

In this course we will explore the origins of economic growth and development of the West. After a brief methodological introduction we will explore the main channels proposed to explain development and growth: institutions, technological progress, the accumulation of human capital and biological evolution, contrasting the theory with historical facts. The course will be based on selected readings from a textbook, journal articles and book chapters.

> PROFESSOR

[Nathan Sussman](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

[Office hours](#)

Regular attendance is compulsory, and any absence must be promptly communicated to the professor. In the event of missing more than two sessions, students are expected to provide well-documented justifications for unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. illness, accident, death of a relative), directly to the Direction of Studies. Failure to justify absences beyond two sessions will result in the assignment of code N.

Syllabus

Prerequisites: Proficiency in economics is **preferable but not required**. In addition to reading, the course requires the ability to read quantitative evidence (tables and figures).

Requirements

1. Students should attend and are expected to read ahead of class discussion.
2. In-class short assignments (**No** preparation needed, 5% of final course grade)
3. Students are required to submit a **short** term-paper by December 22nd. (5-8 pages, 60% of the final course grade).
4. Students will be assigned to prepare a 15 minutes presentation to leadoff class discussion on selected topics. The outline of the presentation should be handed in **before** class. (35% of final course grade).
5. No final exam

Class schedule and reading list

(Papers appear in the order of class discussion)

Legend: B- background material;

1. Introduction: Selected issues and methodologies in the modern economic history. September 18

Henrich, J., Boyd, R., Bowles, S., Camerer, C., Fehr, E., Gintis, H. and McElreath, R., (2001). In search of homo economicus: behavioral experiments in 15 small-scale societies. *American Economic Review*, 91(2), pp.73-78.

Levitt, S.D. and List, J.A., (2008). Homo economicus evolves. *Science*, 319(5865), pp.909-910.

Sussman, N. (2021). A Medieval Homo Economicus? *Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics*, 2(2), 527-566.

Borowiecki, K.J., (2022). Good Reverberations? Teacher Influence in Music Composition since 1450. *Journal of Political Economy*, 130(4), pp.991-1090.

Lippmann, Q. (2021). From Material to Non-Material Needs? The Evolution of Mate Preferences through the Twentieth Century in France. *The Journal of Economic History*, 81(3), 831-871.

Shiller, R. J. (2017). Narrative economics. *American Economic Review*, 107(4), 967-1004

September 25

Crafts, N. F. R. (1985), "Industrial Revolution in England and France: Some Thoughts on the Question 'Why Was England First?'" with a comment ("No Random Walk") by W. W. Rostow, and a reply ("Entrepreneurship and a Probabilistic View of the British Industrial Revolution") by Crafts, in Mokyr, J. (ed.), *The Economics of the Industrial Revolution*, pp. 119-136.

David, P. A. (1986), "Understanding the Economics of QWERTY: The Necessity of History," in Parker, W. N. (ed.), *Economic History and the Modern Economist*, pp. 30-49.

Krugman, P. (1991), *Geography and Trade*, pp. 35-38, 59-67.

- B Cameron R. and Neal, L. (2003), *A Concise History of the World*, pp. 160-172.

2. Institutions in economics and economic history.

October 2

- B Eggertsson, T., (1990), *Economic Behavior and Institutions*, pp. 13-79.
- B North, D. C., (1989), "Institutions and Economic Growth: An Historical Introduction," *World Development*, 17 (9), pp. 1319-1332

3. October 9

Greif A., (2000), "The fundamental problem of exchange: A research agenda in historical institutional analysis," *European review of Economic History*, 4 (3): pp. 251-284.

Carus A.W and Ogilvie S., (2014), "Institutions and Economic growth in historical perspective" in *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Vol 2 ch. 8. 49. pp. 407-18.

4. The beginnings: Ancient civilizations to Feudal institutions and their legacy. B Cameron R., and Neal, L. *A Concise Economic History of the World*, pp. 44-76.

October 16

- B Cipolla, C.M, *Before the Industrial Revolution*, 3 rd edition, pp. 165-182.

Mayshar, J., Moav, O., & Pascali, L. (2022). The Origin of the State: Land Productivity or Appropriability?. *Journal of Political Economy*, 130(4), 1091-1144.

Barjamovic, G (2021) ,"Technologies of trade in western Asia in the Middle Bronze Age", in *Merchants, Measures and Money* Rahmstorf, L., Barjamovic, G., Ialongo, N., Ast, R., Bresson, A., Christ, G., & Zurbach, J. eds. Pp 55-67.

October 23

Domar, E. D. (1970), "The Causes of Slavery or Serfdom: A Hypothesis," *Journal of Economic History*, 30 (1): pp. 18-32.

Beek Van der, K., (2010), Political Fragmentation and Investment Decisions: The Milling Industry in Feudal France (1150-1250 *The Economic History Review* 63 (3), pp. 664-687.

Glaeser, E., L. and Shleifer, A. (2002), "Legal Origins," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117 (4): pp. 1193-1210.

5. The power of money: the evolution of the monetary system. October 30

- B** Velde F. R., (2021), "A functional approach to money in the ancient world" in *Merchants, Measures and Money* Rahmstorf, L., Barjamovic, G., Ialongo, N., Ast, R., Bresson, A., Christ, G., ... & Zurbach, J. eds. Pp 199-206.

Gandal, N. and Sussman N., (1997), "Asymmetric Information and commodity Money: Tickling the Tolerance in Medieval France," *Journal of Money Credit and Banking*, 29 (4) pt. 1. pp. 440-57.

Sussman, Nathan (1993), "Debasements, Royal Revenues, and Inflation in France During the Hundred Years' War, 1415-1422", *The Journal of Economic History*, 53 (1)

6. Economic and Institutional Developments in Early Modern Europe.

November 6

Angelucci, C., Meraglia, S. and Voigtländer, N., (2022). How merchant towns shaped parliaments: From the Norman Conquest of England to the Great Reform Act. *American Economic Review*, 112(10), pp.3441-87.

Cantoni D and N Yuchtman, (2014), "Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129 (2): pp. 823-887.

Dittmar J. E., (2011) "Information Technology and Economic Change: the Impact of the Printing Press" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, pp. 1133–1172.

November 13

Ogilvie, S., Edwards, J. and Küpker, M., (2022). Economically relevant human capital or multi-purpose consumption good? Book ownership in pre-modern Württemberg. *Explorations in Economic History*, 83, 101418.

de la Croix David, Matthias Doepke, Joel Mokyr (2018); Clans, Guilds, and Markets: Apprenticeship Institutions and Growth in the Preindustrial Economy, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 133, Issue 1, 1 February, pp. 1–70.

7. Explaining the Great Divergence: institutions, religion culture and genes.

November 20

Acemoglu, D., Johnston S., Robinson, J. A. (2002). "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117 (4): pp. 1231-94.

Andersen, T. B., Bentzen, J., Dalgaard, C.-J. and Sharp, P. (2017), Pre-reformation Roots of the Protestant Ethic. *Economic Journal*, 127: pp. 1756–1793

November 27

Beker S. O and Woessmann L., (2009) "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, pp. 531-596

Cantoni, D., Dittmar, J. and Yuchtman, N., (2018). Religious competition and reallocation: The political economy of secularization in the protestant reformation. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(4), pp.2037-2096.

Botticini, M. and Eckstein, Z. (2005), "Jewish Occupational Selection: Education, Restriction, or Minorities?" *Journal of Economic History* 65 (4): 922-948.

December 4

Nunn, N. (2008) The Long Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, pp. 139-176.

Alesina, A., Giuliano, P. and Nunn N., (2013), "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128 (2), pp. 469-530.

Bénabou, R., Ticchi, D. and Vindigni, A., (2022). Forbidden fruits: the political economy of science, religion, and growth. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 89(4), pp.1785-1832.

December 11

Desmet, K., & Wacziarg, R. (2021). The cultural divide. **The Economic Journal**, 131(637), 2058-2088.

Gorodnichenko Yuriy and Gerard Roland (2017), "Culture, Institutions, and the Wealth of Nations." *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 99:3, pp. 402-416

Galor Oded (2022) "[The Journey of Humanity](#)"

8. Student presentations December 18.