

# Economics 4514 : Economic History of Europe

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## Description

The European continent was the first place to experience modern economic growth. The resulting transformation—covering the period from 1000 to the present—began one of the most important and ongoing processes in world history, and one with far-reaching impacts for economic development and political union. The first part of this course focuses on the preconditions for growth—including the institutional and technological determinants of Europe’s divergence from the rest of the world. The second part examines Europe’s role in the integration of the global economy starting with the Industrial Revolution and ending with the First World War I. The final part considers the forces behind the economic and political catastrophes of the 1930s and 1940s, political and economic integration during the postwar period, and more recent changes in the European Union.

## Grading

*Weekly Reading Summary (20%)*: Students are required to post a summary of the reading for each on [Canvas](#) by Monday 11am of the week the reading is listed. The summary should identify the question addressed in the reading, discuss the evidence used by the author(s), and provide a brief analysis of the conclusion. Ten of these reading summaries will count toward your final grade. There are no summaries due on or .

*Midterm Exam (35%)*: There will be one take-home midterm exam due on . The midterm exam will cover material from week 1 to week 7 on the **Course Outline** below.

*Final Exam (45%)*: There will be a take-home final exam due in the final exam period. Students will be required to analyze data and answer questions based on reading and lecture material from the entire course.

## Course Materials

The required readings are marked with a “★” and background readings are marked with a “†” on the **Course Outline** below. The background readings are optional but may provide useful background for studying for exams. Many of these readings are from Larry Neal and Rondo Cameron’s *A Concise Economic History of the World: From Paleolithic Times to the Present*, which is available from the bookstore. Other readings—including all required readings—and all lectures slides will be made available on [Canvas](#).

## Course Policies

*Accommodation for Disabilities:* If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

*Religious Holidays:* Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please review the course schedule at the beginning of the semester and see me regarding any anticipated conflicts due to religious observances. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

*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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

*Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:* The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

*Honor Code:* All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible

for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

## **Course Outline**

### **1. Introduction to the Course**

\*Fouquet & Broadberry, “Seven Centuries of European Economic Growth and Decline”

†Mokyr, “Long-Term Economic Growth and the History of Technology”

†Clark, “The Logic of the Malthusian Economy”

### **2. The Roman Market Economy**

\*Scheidel, “The Size of the Economy and the Distribution of Income in the Roman Empire”

†Temin, “The Economy of the Early Roman Empire”

### **3. Medieval Europe**

\*de la Croix et al, “Clans, Guilds, and Markets”

†Wickham, “A New Look at the Middle Ages” and “The Long Economic Boom”

### **4. The Printing Press**

\*Becker et al, “Causes and Consequences of the Protestant Reformation”

\*Dittmar & Seabold, “New Media and Competition”

### **5. The Discovery of the New World**

\*O’Rourke & Williamson, “After Columbus”

\*Arteaga et al, “Shipwrecked by Rents”

†N&C, “Europe’s Recovery and Discovery of the Rest of the World”

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

\*Steinsson, “How Did Growth Begin?”

†Dincecco, “The Rise of Effective States”

†N&C, “The Dawn of Modern Industry”

## **7. The Great Divergence**

\*Broadberry et al, “China, Europe, and the Great Divergence”

†Brandt et al, “From Divergence to Convergence”

## **8. Midterm**

Take-home midterm exam due on at on Canvas.

## **9. The Standard of Living**

\*Feinstein, “Pessimism Perpetuated”

†Hoffman et al, “Real Inequality in Europe since 1500”

## **10. Globalization**

\*Pascali, “The Wind of Change”

\*Hannah, “Logistics, Market Size, and Giant Plants in the Early 20thC”

†N&C, “The Spread of Development in Europe”

## **11. World War I**

\*Ritschl, “The Anglo-German Industrial Productivity Puzzle”

\*Fertik & Lamoreaux, “World War I and the Restructuring of International Business”

†Broadberry & Harrison (editors), *The Economics of World War I*

## **12. The Great Depression**

\*Accominotti, “London Merchant Banks”

\*Eichengreen & Irwin, “The Slide to Protectionism in the Great Depression”

†N&C, “International Economic Disintegration”

## **13. Postwar Europe**

\*Giorcelli, “The Long-Term Effects of Management and Technology Transfers”

†N&C, “Rebuilding the World Economy”

†Eichengreen, “Postwar Situation”

## **14. European Union**

\*Eichengreen, “The Integration of Western Europe”

†Eichengreen, “The Apex of the Golden Age” and “Mounting Payments Problems”

## **15. The Future of Europe**

\*Eichengreen, “Europe at the Turn of the 21stC” and “The Future of the European Model”

†Keynes, “Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren”