

UG Course Outline

EC3342: International Economic History

2017/18

SPRING

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Course Overview

This is a survey course offered in the second term of the 2017-18 academic year. The course covers several important topics in economic history. It is designed to be within the mainstream economics tradition in that the focus is on topics and methodology rather than time periods or countries. The major topics covered are economic growth and wellbeing, agricultural and urban development, globalisation and migration, banking and monetary systems, and the Great Depression and recovery.

Aims

This course will build upon the core skills developed in the economic theory and econometrics courses in Year 2 in order to develop an understanding of some of the principle issues in economic history, while providing opportunities to practice and develop a range of key skills.

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered through a two-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar each week. Specific learning outcomes and prescribed reading are provided for each week of the course. Seminars will be based upon worksheets distributed in the previous week's lecture. I will be available for consultation during advertised office hours or by appointment.

Handouts

All lecture overheads and seminar problem sets for this course will be made available on the course Moodle page.

I will place suggested solutions for the seminar problem sets on the Moodle page **only if students read the articles each week and participate in the seminars.**

Course Assessment

The final mark is composed of

- Group Presentation 10% (presentation 5% + written report 5%)
- Midterm Exam 15%
- Final Exam 75%

A two-hour unseen exam for this course will be given during the summer term and will count for 75 per cent of the mark. Students are required to regularly attend seminars in order to sit the final exam.

In addition to the final exam, 25 per cent of your overall mark will be determined by continuous assessment. A one hour unseen mid-term test will count for 15 per cent of the overall mark. The date for the mid-term test is listed in the student handbook.

The remaining 10 per cent of your overall mark will come from a presentation of one article from the reading list. Depending on the number of students in the class, the readings will be presented by groups of between 1 and 4 students. A further handout will follow on the nature of the presentation. If you have a legitimate reason why you can not participate on any particular date, you need to let me know well in advance.

Within one week after your presentation, a short written report (1-2 pages) based on the article is due. The report counts for 5 per cent of the mark. The presentation and article report should contain a concise statement of the author's research question; a brief outline of how the author answers the question including methods and data; and a list of critiques, praise, or questions you have regarding the adequacy of the methodology. Your report should be submitted through Turnitin anti-plagiarism software via the designated link on the Moodle course webpage.

The nature of the mid-term test and the presentations mean that it is not possible to reschedule them, even if they are missed for legitimate reasons. In cases where the academic coordinator has deemed an absence to be legitimate, the percentage mark achieved in the unaffected assessment will be proportionately scaled up to return an outcome for the whole course

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should:

- Understand how scholars have applied economic and statistical techniques to historical problems
- Understand the important factors that have contributed to the rise of the western capitalist economies
- Be able to critically evaluate alternative explanations in important historical debates
- Be able to apply analytical techniques used to evaluate historical issues to analogous contemporary debates

Reading

There is no textbook for this course. The readings will come from various books and journal articles covering the topics listed above. Some of these readings are somewhat technical. It is important that you are able to understand the main conclusions of an article, even if you do not fully understand the techniques used in the analysis. Do not just put an article down if you get stuck on a technical point, you still should be able to understand the basic methodology and the main conclusions. The seminar worksheets will help guide you through the most important aspects of the article. The readings for the course are listed below. Readings marked with an asterisk are available online at UK JSTOR (<http://uk.jstor.org>), which you can access on campus. All other readings will be on short reserve at the library.

General reading on why YOU should study economic history:

<http://www.irisheconomy.ie/index.php/2013/07/05/why-economics-needs-economic-history/>

Reading List

Articles marked with a * are available through JSTOR

*Ran Abromitsky, Leah Boustan and Katherine Eriksson, "Europe's Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-Selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration," American Economic Review, 102:5, 1832-1856.

*Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson, "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World", Quarterly Journal of Economics, volume 117 (Nov 2002), pp. 1231-1294.

Leah Platt Boustan, Devin Bunten, and Owen Hearey, "Urbanization in the United States, 1800-2000", NBER Working Paper No. 19041, May 2013.

Available at

http://www.econ.ucla.edu/lboustan/research_pdfs/research21_urban_handbook.pdf

*N. F. R Crafts, "The Human Development Index and Changes in Standards of Living: Some Historical Comparisons", European Review of Economic History 1: 3 (December 1997), pp. 299-323.

Eichengreen and M. Flandreau, "Editors introduction" in Eichengreen and Flandreau, The Gold Standard in Theory and History, 1997, pp. 1-31.

*Goldin, Claudia, "The human-capital century and American leadership: Virtues of the past" *The Journal of Economic History*, 61 (2) 2001: 263-292.

T. Hatton and J. Williamson, "International Migration, 1850-1939" in T. J. Hatton and J. Williamson, Migration and the International Labor Market, 1850-1939, 1994, pp. 3-32.

William Hynes, David S. Jacks, Kevin H. O'rourke, 2012. "Commodity market disintegration in the interwar period," European Review of Economic History, 16(2): 119-143. (available at <http://www.nber.org/papers/w14767.pdf>)

* Jacks, D.S. 2005. Intra- and International Commodity Market Integration in the Atlantic Economy, 1800–1913. Explorations in Economic History, 42:381-413.

*Zorina Khan and Kenneth Sokoloff, "'Schemes of Practical Utility': Entrepreneurship and Innovation Among 'Great Inventors' in the United States, 1790-1865", Journal of Economic History, 53, 2, 289-307.

*John Komlos, "Shrinking in a growing Economy? The Mystery of Physical Stature during the Industrial Revolution", Journal of Economic History, 58, 3 (September 1998), pp. 779-802.

Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches, 151-192.

Nathan Nunn, "The Importance of History for Economic Development", Annual Review of Economics, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 2009, pp. 65-92.

http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/nunn/files/nunn_are_2009.pdf

*Hans-Joachim Voth, 1998. "Time and Work in Eighteenth-Century London," The Journal of Economic History, Cambridge University Press, vol. 58(01), pages 29-58

* Hugh Rockoff, "The Wizard of Oz as a Monetary Allegory," Journal of Political Economy, (1990) 98:4, pp. 739-761.

*C. Romer, "The Nation in Depression," Journal of Economic Perspectives (Spring 1993), pp. 19-39.

Peter Temin, "Socialism in Many Countries: The Recovery from the Great Depression" in Temin, Lessons from the Great Depression, MIT Press (1990), pp. 89-137.

*Jeffrey G. Williamson, "Urban Disamenities, Dark Satanic Mills, and the British Standard of Living Debate," Journal of Economic History XLI:1 (March 1981), pp. 75-84.

Supplementary materials

Lectures will often utilise data in the form of charts and tables. Where appropriate, handouts of the data, charts, and tables will be provided. All handouts that are not copyright protected will be made available over Moodle. I will distribute readings that are not available via JSTOR at the beginning of the lecture and leave spare copies outside my office after lectures. Lecture overheads will be available on Moodle prior to the lecture. Please do not come to my office to ask for copies of these materials; you have access through other means.

Seminar Outline: A list of questions pertaining to the readings will be distributed in lecture in the week prior to the relevant seminar. Students are expected to have read the articles and prepared the seminar worksheets.

Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Schedule
Week 1 – Week beginning 08/01	Lecture: Long-term Economic Growth Seminar: No Seminar
Week 2 – Week beginning 15/01	Lecture: Measuring Living Standards Seminar: Komlos, "Shrinking in a growing Economy?"; Crafts, "The Human Development Index"
Week 3 – Week beginning 22/01	Lecture: A Long History of Economic Growth Seminar: Voth, "Time and Work"; Goldin, "Human Capital Century"
Week 4 – Week beginning 30/02	Lecture: Technology and Human Capital Seminar: Joel Mokyr, <u>The Lever of Riches</u> , 151-192; Khan and Sokoloff, "Schemes of Practical"
Week 5 – Week beginning 05/02	Lecture: Institutions and Widening Markets Seminar: Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson, "Reversal of"
Week 6 – Week beginning 12/02	Lecture: Reading Week, no Lecture Seminar: Reading Week, no Seminar
Week 7 – Week beginning 19/02	Lecture: Urbanization Seminar: Williamson, "Urban Disamenities, Dark Satanic Mills", Boustan, Bunten, and Hearey, "Urbanization in the"
Week 8 – Week beginning 26/02	Lecture: Mid-term Test Seminar: Hatton and Williamson, "International Migration"; Abromitsky, Boustan and Eriksson, "Europe's"
Week 9 – Week beginning 05/03	Lecture: Globalisation Seminar: Hynes, Jacks and O'rouke, 2012. "Commodity market disintegration"; Jacks, "Intra- and International"
Week 10 – Week beginning 12/03	Lecture: The International Monetary System Seminar: Rockoff, "The Wizard of Oz as a Monetary Allegory"; Eichengreen and Flandreau, "Editors introduction"
Week 11 – Week beginning 19/03	Lecture: The Great Depression and Public Policy Responses Seminar: Romer, "The Nation in Depression"; Temin,