

Topics in Applied Economics VII: Economic History

2017-2018 Academic Year
Master of Research in Economics, Finance and Management

1. Description of the subject

- Topics in Applied Economics VII
 - Total credits: 3 ECTS
 - Type of subject: Optative
 - Department of Economics and Business
 - Teaching team: Claudia Rei (Vanderbilt University)
- Code: 32366
Workload: 75 hours
Term: 3rd

2. Teaching guide

• Introduction

This course explores topics of interest to economic historians such as the long run international convergence/divergence pattern, institutions and property rights, the industrial revolution, population growth and migration, inequality, and cultural persistence. We focus mostly on the West and the specificities that allowed for its rise so to understand the region's long-term economic success. To this end, we will first study historical changes in the medieval economy and then focus on the consequences of the industrial revolution.

Students will have the opportunity of getting familiar with recent (and not so recent but classic) economic history research, understanding the methodology used in the economic analysis, and applying the economics concepts learned in Micro and Macro Theory

• Contents

The reading list fully based on paper that can be accessed online through the university network.

Every paper denoted by * will be discussed by the instructor during the class.

Every paper denoted by # will be discussed in class by a student or a group of students.

Non-marked papers are listed for interested students who would like to know more on a given topic.

Every paper denoted by * or # can be covered in the final exam.

THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC HISTORY

Carlos, A. M. "Reflection on reflections: review essay on reflections on the cliometric revolution: conversations with economic historians," *Cliometrica* 4, 1 (2011): 97-111.

*Goldin, Claudia. "Cliometrics and the Nobel," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 9, 2 (1995): 191-208.

LONG-TERM CONVERGENCE/DIVERGENCE

John M. Keynes, "Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren", New York: W.W.Norton & Co., 1963, pp. 358-373.

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

*Findlay, Ronald. "The Roots of Divergence: Western Economic History in Comparative Perspective," *American Economic Review* 82, 2 (1992): 158-161.

*Easterlin, Richard. "Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?" *Journal of Economic History* 41, 1 (1981): 1-19.

*Williamson, Jeffrey G. "Globalization, Convergence, and History," *Journal of Economic History* 56, 2 (1996): 277-306.

#De Vries, Jan, "The Limits of Globalization in the Early Modern World," *Economic History Review* 63, 3 (2011): 710-733.

#Voigtländer, Nico, and Hans-Joachim Voth. 2013b. “Gifts of Mars: Warfare and Europe’s Early Rise to Riches,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27(4): 165-186.

Mitchener, Kris James and Se Yan. “Globalization, Trade and Wages: What Does History Tell Us about China?” *International Economic Review* 55, 1 (2014): 131-168.

EUROPEAN EXPANSION

Hoffman, Philip T., “Why was it Europeans Who Conquered the World?” *Journal of Economic History* 72, 3 (2012): 601-633.

*Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. “The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth,” *American Economic Review* 95, 3 (2005): 546-579.

*Rei, Claudia. “The Organization of Eastern Merchant Empires,” *Explorations in Economic History* 48, 1 (2011): 116-135.

*Rei, Claudia. “Incentives in Merchant Empires: Portuguese and Dutch Labor Compensation,” *Cliometrica* 7, 1 (2013): 1-13.

De Vries, Jan. “The Limits of Globalization in the Early Modern World,” *Economic History Review* 63, 3 (2011): 710-733.

#Voigtländer, Nico, and Hans-Joachim Voth. “Gifts of Mars: Warfare and Europe’s Early Rise to Riches,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27, 4 (2013): 165-186.

Irwin, Douglas A. “Mercantilism as Strategic Trade Policy: The Anglo-Dutch Rivalry for the East India Trade,” *Journal of Political Economy* 99, 6 (1991): 1296-1314.

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

*De Long, J. Bradford and Andrei Shleifer. “Princes and Merchants: City Growth Before the Industrial Revolution”, *Journal of Law and Economics* 36, 2(1993): 671-702.

*North, Douglass and Barry Weingast. “Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England,” *Journal of Economic History* 49, 4 (1989): 803-832.

*Dittmar, Jeremiah and **Ralf Meisenzahl**. “**State Capacity and Public Goods: Institutional Change, Human Capital, and Growth in Historic Germany,**” **Manuscript 2016.**

#Acemoglu, Daron, Camilo Garcia-Jimeno and James Robinson. “State Capacity and Economic Development,” *American Economic Review*, 105, 8 (2015): 2364-2409.

Allen, Douglas W. “A theory of the pre-modern British aristocracy,” *Explorations in Economic History* 46, 3 (2009): 299–313.

Drelichman, Mauricio and Hans-Joachim Voth. “Serial defaults, and serial profits: Returns to sovereign lending in Habsburg Spain, 1566-1600,” *Explorations in Economic History* 48, 1 (2011): 1-19.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Mokyr, Joel. “Intellectual Property Rights, the Industrial Revolution, and the Beginnings of Modern Economic Growth,” *American Economic Review* 99, 2, P&P (2009): 349-355.

*Allen, Robert C. “Why was the Industrial Revolution British: commerce, induced invention, and the scientific revolution,” *Economic History Review* 64, 2 (2011): 357-384.

Mokyr, Joel and Ralf R. Meisenzahl. “The Rate and Direction of Invention in the British Industrial Revolution Incentives and Institutions,” NBER 2012.

*Peter Temin, “Two Views of the British Industrial Revolution,” *Journal of Economic History* 57, 1 (1997): 63-82.

Allen, R.C. and J. L. Weisdorf. “Was there an ‘industrious revolution’ before the industrial revolution? An empirical exercise for England, c. 1300–1830,” *Economic History Review* 64, 3 (2011): 715-729.

DeVries, Jan. “The Industrial Revolution and the Industrious Revolution,” *Journal of Economic History* 54, 2 (1994): 249-270.

POPULATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

*Nunn, Nathan and Nancy Quian. “The Potato’s Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from a Historical Experiment,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, 2 (2011): 593-650.

*Voigtländer, Nico and Joachim Voth. “How the West ‘Invented’ Fertility Restriction,” *American Economic Review* 103, 6 (2013): 2227-64.

*Wanamaker, Marianne. “Industrialization and fertility in the nineteenth century: evidence from South Carolina,” *Journal of Economic History* 72, 1 (2012): 168-196.

Alsan, Marcella and Marianne Wanamaker. “Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, forthcoming.

#Wanamaker, Marianne. “Fertility and the Price of Children: Evidence from Slavery and Slave Emancipation,” *Journal of Economic History* 74, 4 (2014): 1045-1071.

#Kelly, Morgan and Cormac Ó Gráda. “Preventive Check in Medieval and Preindustrial England,” *Journal of Economic History* 72, 4 (2012): 1015-1035.

De Moor, Tine and Jan Luiten van Zanden. “Girl power: the European marriage pattern and labour markets in the North Sea region in the late medieval and early modern period,” *Economic History Review* 63, 1 (2010): 1-33.

Voigtländer, Nico, and Hans-Joachim Voth. “The Three Horsemen of Riches: Plague, War and Urbanization in Early Modern Europe,” *Review of Economic Studies* 80, 2 (2013): 774-811.

#Spitzer, Yannay and Ariell Zimran. “Migrant Self-Selection: Anthropometric Evidence from the Mass Migration of Italians to the United States, 1907-1925,” Manuscript, 2017

INEQUALITY AND LIVING STANDARDS

*Lindert, Peter H. “Unequal English Wealth since 1670.” *Journal of Political Economy* 94, 6 (1986): 1127-1162.

Goldin, Claudia and Robert A. Margo, "The Great Compression: The U.S. Wage Structure at Mid-Century," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107 (1992): 1-34.

#Arroyo-Abad, Leticia. "Persistent Inequality? Trade, Factor Endowments, and Inequality in Republican Latin America," *Journal of Economic History* 73, 1 (2013): 38-78.

#Collins, William and Marianne Wanamaker. "Up from Slavery? African American Intergenerational Economic Mobility since 1880," WP. 23395, NBER, 2017.

*Allen, Robert C. "The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War," *Explorations in Economic History* 38, 4 (2001): 411-447.

*Voth, Hans-Joachim. "Time and Work in Eighteenth-Century London." *The Journal of Economic History* 58, 1 (1998): 29-58.

#Allen, Robert C., Jean-Pascal Bassino, Debin Ma, Christine Moll-Murata, and Jan Luiten van Zanden, "Wages, prices, and living standards in China, 1738–1925: in comparison with Europe, Japan, and India," *Economic History Review* 64, S1 (2011): 8-38.

#Cvrcek, Tomas. "Wages, Prices, and Living Standards in the Habsburg Empire, 1827-1910," *Journal of Economic History* 73, 1 (2013): 1-37.

Stolz, Yvonne, Joerg Baten and Jaime Reis. "Portuguese Living Standards, 1720-1980, in European comparison: heights, income, and human capital," *Economic History Review* 66, 2 (2013): 545-578.

CULTURAL PERSISTENCE AND HUMAN CAPITAL

*Voigtlaender, Nico and Hans-Joachim Voth. "Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, 3 (2012): 1339-1392.

De Bromhead, Alan, Barry Eichengreen and Kevin O'Rourke. "Political Extremism in the 1920s and 1930s: Do German Lessons Generalize?" *Journal of Economic History* 73, 2 (2013): 371-406.

*Blum, Matthias and Claudia Rei. "Escaping Europe: Health and Human Capital of Holocaust Refugees," *European Review of Economic History*, forthcoming

Spitzer, Yannay. "Pogroms, Networks, and Migration: the Jewish Migration from the Russian Empire to the United States 1881-1914," Manuscript, 2015

#Acemoglu, Daron, Tarek Hassan and James Robinson. "Social Structure and Development: a Legacy of the Holocaust in Russia," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126 (2011): 895-946.

Teaching methodology

Students should write a research proposal with a clear and well motivated research question, a concrete data plan (no need to get data but give a clear idea of the source and extraction plan), and a well defined methodology or framework. The deadline for the research proposal is the last day of classes.

Students should also select a paper to present in class from the ones marked with a # in the reading list.

Assessment

Grade points will be assigned as follows:

- Class presentation (20%)
- Final exam (40%)
- Research proposal (40%)

• **Grading system**

0-10:

0-4.5	Fail
5-6	C
6.5-7.5	B
8-9	A
9.5-10	A+