The goal of the course is to introduce graduate students to new research on central themes in economic history, especially research that is essentially “micro” in the nature (i.e., studying person-, firm-, or local-level units of observation). This course is part of the required preparation for students completing a special field in economic history, but many of the topics and methods are of broad interest to economists as evidenced by the numerous articles that are drawn from the American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, and AEJ’s in addition to those from the Journal of Economic History and Explorations in Economic History.

Course Requirements: All students will take a midterm and final exam (each 25 percent of course grade). Students have a choice between writing three referee reports or one research paper (25 percent of the course grade). Students are expected to have read each week’s “papers for discussion” before coming to class. Participation in class discussions will count for the remaining 25 percent of the course grade.

Referee reports: Each should be a 3 to 5 page critical review of a research paper selected from a list that I will provide. A more detailed description of the assignment will be distributed in class. The first report must be turned in before Spring Break. The last report will be due on April 18.

Research paper: This must be an original, relatively short research paper (about 15 pages) on a topic in economic history. Students should discuss their paper topics with me before starting. The research paper is due on April 18. No extensions will be granted.

Class presentations: At the end of the semester, students will present either their research paper or a “discussant-style” summary and constructive critique related to their referee reports. Both tasks are common and important in the profession.

Class discussions: Rather than present the material in a lecture format, I would prefer to use class time to discuss the motivation, techniques, and arguments of specific papers, and where they fit into the literature. This only works if students have read the papers ahead of time.

Readings: The reading list is fairly long. Class meetings will focus on a subset of papers within each topic which are designated on the list as “Papers for Specific Discussion.” These are predominantly new research papers, selected to give students a view of what is going on in the field today. Students who intend to complete a “field” in economic history should read broadly from the reading list (i.e., beyond the readings covered in detail in class), especially in areas they find especially interesting. The “background” readings include some landmark books, classic articles, and broad perspectives on economic history.

Exams: The midterm exam is scheduled for February 21 in class. The final exam is scheduled for April 30 (9 am). Everyone must take the exams at those times. If you are physically unable to take the exam due to illness, please alert me ahead of time by email. All of the material from class meetings and from readings designated as “for specific discussion” is fair game for the exams.

Office hours: Monday from 1 to 3 pm. Appointments at other times can be made by email.

Honor Code: As in all classes, students must adhere to Vanderbilt’s Honor Code. If you are unfamiliar with the honor code, see: http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/honor-council/ and http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>War and Its Aftermath</td>
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<td>War and Its Aftermath</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Marriage, Fertility, Family</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Research Paper is due or 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; referee report is due</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Final Exam, 9 am</td>
<td>Final</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reading List: Econ 366A

INSTITUTIONS AND LONG-RUN DEVELOPMENT

Background


Papers for Specific Discussion


AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Background


Papers for Specific Discussion


INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INNOVATION

Background


Papers for Specific Discussion


WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH

Background


Papers for Specific Instruction


EDUCATION

Background


Papers for Specific Discussion


LABOR MOBILITY AND MIGRATION (3 LECTURES)

Background


Papers for Specific Discussion


TRANSPORTATION

Background


Papers for Specific Discussion


**The Great Depression (Micro Views)**

**Background**


**Papers for Specific Discussion**


**Health**

**Background**


**Papers for Specific Discussion**


**Urban**

**Background**


**Papers for Specific Discussion**


**Marriage, Fertility, and Family**

**Background**


**Papers for Specific Discussion**

