

Spring 2013
Mon - Wed. 4-5.30 pm
155 Donner Lab

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History 159A.
Economic History to the Industrial Revolution.

This course is a survey of economic history from Classical civilizations to the beginnings of industrialization in Britain in the late eighteenth century. The focus will be on developments in Europe, but will introduce comparisons with other areas of the world. Among the major questions to be addressed are: Was (is) economic life bound by Malthusian constraints? Was Europe unique in escaping these constraints? Was there a transition from feudalism to capitalism? How did the first global economy come into being? What can explain the British industrial revolution? What was its significance?

This course is equivalent to Economics 111A. Economics majors may apply the course to their major requirements.

Basic knowledge of economics is helpful, as is a general background in world history, but there are no formal prerequisites for enrollment in this course.

Evaluation will be based on a mid-term examination (20%), a term paper of 7-8 pages to be described later (20%), discussion session participation (20%), and a final exam (40%).

The following is available for purchase:

Jan de Vries, The Economy of Europe in an Age of Crisis, 1600-1750 (Cambridge University Press, 1976). [cited below as: Crisis]

All other assigned readings are assembled in a reader available at Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft.

Reading Assignments:

23 Jan. Introduction: the Big Picture

28 Jan-4 Feb. Land, People, Energy: The structure of pre-industrial economies.

Karl Gunnar Persson, An Economic History of Europe (Cambridge University Press, 2010), Ch. 3, pp. 42-59.

Gregory Clark, A Farewell to Alms (Princeton University Press, 2007), Ch. 2, pp. 19-39

E. A. Wrigley, Energy and the English Industrial Revolution (Cambridge, 2010), pp. 9-52

Jan Luiten van Zanden and Tine de Moor, "Girlpower. The European Marriage Pattern and labour markets in the North Sea Region in the Late Medieval Period," in Jan Luiten van Zanden, The Long Road to the Industrial Revolution (E.J. Brill, 2009), pp. 101-141.

6-13 Feb. Origins of the Medieval Economy

Rondo Cameron, A Concise Economic History of the World (2nd ed., Oxford, 1993), ch. 2-3, pp. 20-77.

Persson, An Economic History of Europe, Ch. 1-2, pp. 10-41.

D. N. McCloskey, "Open Field System," in The World of Economics (Norton, 1991), pp. 516-519.

Douglass North and Robert Paul Thomas, The Rise of the Western World (Cambridge, 1973), ch. 1-7, pp. 1-89.

Harry Miskimin, The Economy of Early Renaissance Europe, 1300-1460 (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1969), Ch. 4, The International Economy, pp. 116-163.

Robert Lopez, "Hard Times and the Investment in Culture," in Wallace K. Ferguson, et al., The Renaissance: Six Essays (New York, 1962), pp. 29-54.

Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches (Oxford University Press, 1990), Ch -3, pp. 3-56

19- Feb. –
6 March

The Origins of Capitalism.

Werner Sombart, "Capitalism" International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (New York, Macmillan, 1930), Vol. 3, pp. 195-208.

Harry Miskimin, The Economy of Later Renaissance Europe, 1460-1600 (Cambridge, 1977), ch 2 and 5, pp. 20-46, 123-154.

Max Weber, "The Author Defines his Purposes," and Kemper Fullerton, "Calvinism and Capitalism: An Explanation of the Weber Thesis," in R. W. Green, ed., The Weber Thesis Controversy (Lexington, Mass., 1973), pp. 1-31.

Christopher Hill, "Protestantism and the Rise of Capitalism," in David Landes, ed., The Rise of Capitalism (New York, 1966), pp. 41-52.

Jan Luiten van Zanden, "The Philosophers and the Revolution of the Printing Press," in Van Zanden, The Long Road, pp. 177-201.

Philip D. Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex (2nd ed., Cambridge, 1999), Ch. 3, pp. 29-45.

Crisis, Ch 1-3, pp. 1-112.

Mokyr, Lever, Ch. 4, pp. 57-80; Ch. 7, pp. 151-192

11 March Mid-Term Exam

13-20 March Europe in a World Economy: the first age of globalization?

Crisis, Ch 4-8, pp. 113-254.

Rudolf Braun, "The Impact of Cottage Industry on an Agricultural Population," in Landes, Rise of Capitalism, pp. 53-64.

Fernand Braudel, The Perspective on the World (Civilization and Capitalism, Vol. III) (New York, 1979), ch. 1 and 3, pp. 21-57, 175-206.

Persson, An Economic History of Europe, Ch. 5, pp.74-91; ch 7, pp. 129-153.

Ronald Findlay and Kevin O'Rourke, Power and Plenty (Princeton, 2007), Ch. 4-5, pp. 204-262; 286-294; 304-310.

Philip D. Curtin, Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex, Ch. 6, pp. 73-85; Ch 9-10, pp. 113-143.

Stephen Broadberry and Bishnupriya Gupta, "The Early Modern Great Divergence: Wages, Prices and Economic Development in Europe and Asia, 1500-1800," Economic History Review 59 (2006), pp. 2-31.

Ralph Austen and Woodruff Smith, "Private Tooth Decay as Public Economic Virtue: The Slave-Sugar Triangle, Consumerism, and European Industrialization," in Joseph Inikori and Stanley Engerman, eds., The Atlantic Slave Trade (Durham, N.C., 1992), pp. 183-204..

1 April – 1 May The Industrial Revolution: The Great Divergence?

Joel Mokyr, “Accounting for the Industrial Revolution,” Ch. 1, pp. 1-27, in Roderick Floud and Paul Johnson, eds., The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain, Vol 1, 1700-1860 (Cambridge, 2004).

Robert C. Allen, “Why the Industrial Revolution was British: commerce, induced invention, and the scientific revolution,” Economic History Review 64 (2011), pp. 357-84.

Mokyr, Lever, Ch. 5, pp. 81-112.

Robert C. Allen, The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective (Cambridge, 2009), Ch. 10, “Inventors, Enlightenment and Human Capital,” pp. 238-71.

Findley and O’Rourke, Power and Plenty, Ch 6, pp. 324-364.

E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (New York, 1966), Ch. 6, “Exploitation,” pp. 189-212.

Neil McKendrick, “Josiah Wedgwood and Factory Discipline,” in Landes, Rise of Capitalism, pp. 65-80.

Wrigley, Energy, Ch 8, “Modernization and the Industrial Revolution in England,” pp. 211-35.

Clark, Farewell to Alms, ch.12 - 14, pp. 230-99

22 April Paper Due

6-8 May RRR period

17 May Final Examination, 8-11 am.