Economics 523
Economic History and Development
Spring 2013

Thurs. 2-4:50 p.m., KAP 148
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Key Dates
First hour exam 02/28/13
Second hour exam 04/11/13
Final exam 05/09/13

Course description: An interdisciplinary inquiry into the nature, origins, causes and effects of the worldwide change in human welfare since 1800. The course covers both today's developed and developing countries, and draws on economic history, demography, statistical data, and nonmathematical microeconomic theory to establish and interpret the historical record and to evaluate theories of the factors responsible for the improvement in various dimension of human welfare since 1800.

Topics
Introduction: Human well-being
Part One: Economic Change
   I. Premodern economic conditions and trends
      A. Economic epochs
      B. International expansion, 1500-1750
      C. Revolution or evolution?
   II. The epoch of modern economic growth
      A. Changes in production (factor inputs, scale, technology, growth accounting)
      B. Structural change (resource allocation, income distribution, subjective well-being)
      C. Economic crises
      D. Transition from Socialism to Capitalism
      E. International aspects
Part Two: Social and Political Change
   I. Premodern demographic conditions
   II. The mortality revolution
   III. The decline of fertility
   IV. Long-term effect of population growth on economic growth
   V. Sex roles and women’s status
   VI. Education
   VII. Political democracy and economic growth
Part Three: Explanations and Projections
   I. Interpretations
   II. The future
Requirements: The final grade is based on two midterm exams and a final, each comprising 1/3 of grade.

Required materials:
(B) Blackboard ([https://blackboard.usc.edu/](https://blackboard.usc.edu/)), Class Documents
To log in use the same username and password you use for your USC e-mail account.
You will have to be connected to the USC network to access some of the papers (look at the ISD website to see how you can access the USC network when you are off-campus). Contact Haojun (haojun.yu@gmail.com) if you have any problems using blackboard.
(R) Course Reader available at USC Bookstore

READING ASSIGNMENTS
INTRODUCTION: HUMAN WELL-BEING

(B) Blanchflower, David, “International Evidence on Well-Being”, pp. 5-6.

Part One: ECONOMIC CHANGE

I. Premodern Economic Conditions and Trends
(E) ch. 2, pp. 15-18.

II. The Epoch of Modern Economic Growth
1/24  A. Changes in production
1. Factor inputs, scale, technology
2. Growth accounting
(B) Bruni, L., "Internal Economies of Scale with a Given Technique," Journal of Industrial Economics, XII (July 1964), pp. 175-190.
(B) Easterlin, Richard, A. “Ignorance of History is No Excuse”, pp. 1-7.

1. Resource allocation, income distribution
(E) pp. 1-7, ch. 4

C. Economic Crises

D. Transition from Socialism to Capitalism

FIRST HOUR EXAM
E. International aspects

3/7 1. International economic relations
(E) ch. 3

3/14 2. Spread of modern economic growth
(E) ch. 5.

3/18-22 RECESS

Part Two: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE

3/28 I. Premodern demographic conditions
(B) Cipolla, Carlo, The Economic History of World Population (1974), ch. 4 (Births and Deaths).

II. The mortality revolution
(E) ch. 6.

4/4 III. The decline of fertility
(E) ch. 8
IV. Long-term effect of population growth on economic growth

(E) ch. 7, 9

4/11 SECOND HOUR EXAM

4/18 V. Sex roles and women’s status


VI. Education


VII. Political Democracy and Economic Development


Part Three: EXPLANATIONS

4/25 I. Interpretations


(E) ch. 2.


(R) Diamond, Jared [see part I, sect. I].

5/2 **II. The future**

(E) chs. 1, 10, 11.


**FINAL EXAM, Thursday, May 9, 2-4 pm**