This course surveys research topics in economic history, with an emphasis on questions related to economic growth. Class will be organized around a discussion of assigned readings in four main topic areas: the industrial revolution, institutions, the Great Depression, and the development of the American economy. The course emphasis is on exposing students to research, and encouraging the development and implementation of new research ideas. The course covers both qualitative research and quantitative empirical analysis, and students are expected to be familiar with basic tools for economic analysis.

Course requirements are:

1. **Class participation.** The assigned readings are to be completed by the date indicated on the reading list, and it is essential that readings be completed to facilitate class discussion. Readings are posted on the course website.

2. **Reading discussion questions.** Prior to each class, students will submit responses to short discussion questions (approximately one double-spaced page for each class). These will be graded as check-plus/check/check-minus. "Check" responses demonstrate familiarity with the papers. "Check-plus" responses contain new insight on the papers: critiques, potential improvements, or connecting the paper to other readings.

3. **Research proposal(s).** One option is to write two short research proposals (approximately 5 double-spaced pages) that detail the economic question, setting/data, and methodology for the analysis. The first research proposal would be due 10/26 (at 5pm). The second research proposal would be due 11/27 (at 5pm). Another option is to write one extended proposal/paper that satisfies the concentration writing requirement, for which a preliminary proposal would be due 10/26 (at 5pm) and the final version due 11/27 (at 5pm). Some proposals (or papers) will be chosen for student in-class presentations. Class participation and feedback during these presentations will be given extra weight in the class participation grades.

4. **Final exam.** A final exam during exam week will have essay questions that build on class discussions and the reading discussion questions. (Exam Group TBD)

Grading:

Class participation and reading discussion questions will combine for 30% of the grade. The research proposal(s) will count for 40% of the grade (if writing two, then the higher-graded will count for 25% and the lower-graded for 15%). The course final will count for the remaining 30% of the grade. Note that concentrators may not take the class pass/fail.
Introduction
Class 1 (September 5)

Part 1: Industrialization
Class 2 (September 10)
   T. S. Ashton, The Industrial Revolution, 1760-1830, Chapters 1, 2, 3. (Skim)

Class 3 (September 12)
   Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches, Chapters 1 and 7.

Class 4 (September 17)
   Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches, Chapter 9.


Class 5 (September 19)
   Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches, Chapter 10.


Class 6 (September 24)
   Alexander Gerschenkron, Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective, Chapter 1.


Part 2: Institutions
Class 7 (September 26)


Class 8 (October 1)

Class 9 (October 3)
Class 10 (October 10)

Class 11 (October 15)

**Part 3: Great Depression**

Class 12 (October 17)


Class 13 (October 22)

Class 14 (October 24)

Class 15 (October 29)

Class 16 (October 31)
Student Presentations

**Part 4: Development of the American Economy**

Class 17 (November 5)
No class

Class 18 (November 7)


Class 19 (November 12)

**Class 20 (November 14)**


**Class 21 (November 19)**


**Class 22 (November 26)**


**Class 23 (November 28)**


**Class 24 (December 3)**

Student presentations