

Economic History of the Pacific Rim

[CRN: 10972]

Course Outline and Reading List

I Introduction

This is a course focusing on the long-run history of the Pacific Rim. The main thrust of the course is the economic development of Japan and China; a secondary concentration is on Western penetration into the Pacific Rim after 1500.

Topics covered include: (1) the Neolithic Revolution, the transition from hunting and gathering to settled agriculture with domesticated plants and animals; (2) the importance of religion for the stabilization of empires and kingdoms; (3) the population dynamics of a Malthusian world and adjustment to the Black Death; (4) the surge to global dominance by Western Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries and the reaction of China and Japan to European expansion on the Pacific Rim; (5) the Enlightenment, nation-state building, the first Industrial Revolution and the Great Divergence; (6) the second Industrial Revolution and the drift toward Total War; (7) Total War, the Hemoclysm, and Japanese imperialism in Asia; and (8) the transformation of the Pacific Economy in the aftermath of the Hemoclysm.

My office hours are 11:30 am to 12:20 pm on Tuesday and Friday. My office is 378 Business and Economics Building, on the third floor. I will meet with students outside of these hours but only by appointment (please see me at the end of lecture for an appointment). Because I find it difficult to fully answer questions posed to me in e-mail, I discourage students from making enquiries or asking informational questions through e-mail. Moreover, I cannot guarantee that I will answer e-mail on short notice.

A copy of this course outline will be posted to my personal homepage www.carlmosk.com.

II Administrative Matters

It should be stressed that performance in this course depends upon your ability to read and write. For this reason, you should complete Economics 225 (Writing for Economists) before you enroll in this course.

Grading is based upon numerical scores on a midterm and on a final. The midterm score is weighted by .4, and the final score is weighted by .6, the two scores added together to yield a total numerical score out of 100. The midterm is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, October 9**.

In assigning letter grades I employ the schedule for the Department of Economics, namely:

90 and up: A+	85-89: A	80-84: A-
77-79: B+	73-76: B	70-72: B-
65-69: C+	60-64: C	50-59: D
0-49: E or F		

Students are expected to take examinations at the scheduled time and places. The only exceptions are for authorized medical excuses.

Students should make note of the following policy adopted by the Department of Economics:

Plagiarism and Cheating: The standards and reputation of a University are the shared responsibility of its faculty and students. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. Plagiarism and cheating are considered to be serious breach of academic integrity and shall be dealt with as such by the Department of Economics.

Please see the University Calendar for examples of plagiarism.

Students should also be aware of the following University policy:

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Students are advised not to make travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the examination period (see the University Calendar.) There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

III Readings

The required readings are drawn from four sources: **four books (all paperback)** available for purchase at the University Bookstore; and a **Coursepack** that is available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

The four books to be **purchased** are as follows:

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*

Deidre McCloskey, *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World*

Carl Mosk, *Japanese Economic Development: Markets, Norms, Structures*

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World*

In addition I am placing on two-hour reserve the following recommended – **not required** – books that you may find useful for supplementing the lecture material:

Carl Mosk (2011), *Traps Embraced or Escaped: Elites in the Economic Development of Modern Japan and China*

And

Carl Mosk (2013), *Nationalism and Economic Development in Modern Eurasia*

IV Course Topics and Readings Listed by Topic

IV.A From Tribes to States: Violence, Markets and Religion

Topics covered include: the Neolithic Revolution and the transition from hunting and gathering to settled agriculture; the problem of violence in tribal societies; from tribal religion to Axial thought and the tension between ruler-sage and the sage-ruler (Socrates/Plato and the Hebrew Prophets in the West; Confucius, Buddha and Taoism in the East).

Required Readings: (1) In the Coursepack: Mosk, pp. 6-13, 21, 242-250 and Morris (all pages assigned); (2) Clark, Chapters 1-4; (3) Mosk, Chapter 1; and (4) Pomeranz, Introduction.

Recommended Readings: Mosk (2013): Chapters 1-2.

IV.B A Malthusian World

Topics include: (1) the logic of the Malthusian model and historical evidence concerning its validity; (2) A natural experiment: The Mongolian invasions and the Black Death; (3) Contrast between East and West; the Hutterite Indices; and (4) Morris versus Clark on the standard of living.

Required Reading: (1) Clark, Chapters 5-9; (2) Mosk, Chapter 2; and (3) Pomeranz, Part One;

Recommended Reading: Mosk (2011): Part One.

IV.C Europe Goes Global

Topics include: (1) The emergence of the second and third Abrahamic religions in the West (Christianity and Islam); (2) the fragmentation of Europe; (3) European exploration and colonization; (4) the Protestant Reformation and the growing power of European monarchs; (5) the “industrious revolution” in Europe; and (6) Asian response to European commercial expansion in Asian waters.

Required Readings: Pomeranz: Part II.

Recommended Readings: Mosk (2011): Part II; and Mosk (2013): Chapter 3.

IV.D Europe Breaks Out of the Malthusian Trap; the Great Divergence; a Second Axial Age Ushered In

Topics include: (1) key aspects of the first Industrial Revolution; (2) the Enlightenment as a second Axial Age; (3) the Industrial Enlightenment and the spread of the knowledge economy as a theory of the Industrial Revolution; and (4) alternative theories of the Industrial Revolution.

Required Readings: Clark, Parts II and III; McCloskey, Chapters 1-42; Mosk, Chapter 3; and Pomeranz, Part III.

Recommended Reading: Mosk (2013): Chapter 5.

IV.E The Second Industrial Revolution

Topics include: (1) electricity and the unit drive system; (2) the internal combustion engine and technological progress in transportation; (3) the declining prices of steel; and (4) the germ theory of disease and its applications to public health and medicine.

Required Reading: Mosk in Coursepack (pp. 98-102); Mosk: Chapters 4 and 5.

Recommended Reading: Mosk (2013): Chapter 4.

IV.F Into the Horror of the Hemoclysm

Topics include: (1) the impact of the second industrial revolution upon warfare; (2) the ideology of *fukoku kyōhei* and Japan's emergence as a Far Eastern Asian power bidding for hegemony in the region; (3) the impact of World War I on the geopolitics of Asia; (4) Japanese militarism and the invasion of China.

Required Reading: Mosk in Coursepack (pp. 231-237); and Mosk: Chapter 6.

Recommended Readings: Mosk (2011): Chapter 7.

IV.G A World Transformed

Topics include: (1) the Cold War; (2) Miracle Growth in Japan; and (3) Maoist Growth in China.

Required Reading: Mosk: Chapters 7 and 8.

Recommended Reading: Mosk (2011): Chapters 9 and 10.

END