

you will be automatically notified by email. Because several people might receive that same message, go online ASAP to schedule that open spot; 96% of clients who want an appointment end up with one if they use the Wait List. The best way to guarantee yourself an appointment is to schedule early!

The Center also offers instruction both to individuals and groups in methods of oral presentation (how to write a speech, how to use visual aids, how to conduct oneself when presenting scientific or nonscientific information). The Center provides specialized help to those for whom English is a second language.

Check out [The MIT Online Writing and Communication Center](#)

Check out [Writing Resources on the World Wide Web](#) for some immediate guidance.

<http://web.mit.edu/uua/www/writing/links/>

Grading: 20% for shorter discussion papers (5% each)
 15% for 4 page paper
 5% for debate presentation
 10% for first draft of final paper
 15% for rewrite of final paper
 15% for 3 section quizzes
 20% for class participation -- demonstrating mastery of the assigned readings.

Late Paper and Absence Policy:

Late papers will be accepted without penalty in the case of a medical emergency or some other extreme contingency that has been approved in advance. Otherwise, late papers will be graded down 5% points for each day they are late. Students are expected to attend class, and to participate actively in section meetings. If you know in advance that you must travel during the week for professional reasons, please see us as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Books for purchase at the COOP

Amartya Sen (and edited by Hawthorn), The Standard of Living: Tanner Lectures, Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Steven A. Epstein, An Economic and Social History of Later Medieval Europe, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

All other readings are either available as on-line journal articles or can be found in PDF format on-line at the course Stellar site.

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

- Feb 4 **Some big questions in economic history, and how to think about them.**
All sections meet together for first class in 16-160
Assorted administrative trivia.
Reading: Robert Solow, “Economics: Is Something Missing?”
- Feb 9 **Late Roman Antiquity and Barbarian Europe**
Reading: John Hatcher and Mark Bailey, Modeling the Middle Ages: the History and Theory of England’s Economic Development, pp. 1-10.
Epstein, ESHLME, Introduction, pp. 1-9.
- Feb 9** *Assignment due:*
2 page discussion paper on a ‘technology’ that you employ on a regular basis, but about the history or characteristics of which you rarely pause to consider. Your discussion should indicate the ways in which this particular technology intersects with the larger themes of economic history. Be creative and feel free to have some fun with this assignment. It has no right answer, but nevertheless your discussion should reveal a high level of thoughtfulness.
- Feb 11/13 Fundamentals of good history writing
Reading: Epstein, ESHLME, Chapter 1, pp. 10-39..
- Feb 17 Monday schedule of classes
The ‘Dark Ages’: myth or reality.
(Class should all meet together in 16-160)
- Feb 18/20 *Reading:* Michael McCormick, “New Light on the Dark Ages: How the Slave Trade Fuelled the Carolingian Economy,” Past and Present, 2002.
- Feb 18/20** *Assignment:* 2 page discussion paper of McCormick reading.
- Feb 23 **The structure of medieval life: manorialism and feudalism.**
- Feb 25/27 *Reading:* Duby, Early Growth of the European Economy, pp. 162-180.
Reading: Epstein, ESHLME, Chapter 2, pp. 40-69.
Lecture note quick quiz.

Please also bring with you to class two primary source documents: “The Plan of St. Gall” and articles from “The Capitulary on the Maintenance of the Royal Estates.”
- Mar 2 **Medieval agriculture and commercialization: a revised story.**
- Mar 4/6 *Reading:* Gregory Clark, "The Economics of Exhaustion," Journal of Economic History, March 1992: 61-84.

Bruce Campbell, "Economic rent and the intensification of English agriculture, 1086-1350," from Medieval Farming and Technology.

Lecture note quick quiz.

- Mar 9 **The wider medieval world: Vikings, Mongols, and Saracens.**
Viking film in lecture.
- Mar 11-13 *Reading:* Epstein, ESHLME, Chapter 3, pp. 70-99.
Selections from Robert the Monk, A Jerusalem History, c.1110; selections from Jean de Joinville, The Book of the Holy Words and Good Deeds of Our King, Saint Louis, 1309; "Annals of Xanten, 845-853"; and a selection from the Historia Norwegie.
- Mar 11-13** *Assignment:* 3 page primary source analysis of one of the documents assigned for section.
- Mar 16-18/20 **Rise of the commune and revival of trade: counterpoint to autarkic agriculture.**
Reading: Epstein, ESHLME, Chapter 4, pp. 100-128.
Also read documentary selections from Lopez, Medieval Trade in the Mediterranean World, on "The Jewish Role in World Trade," "Milan in 1288," and "Reports from the Fairs of Champagne"; also read "The Great Fair at Thessalonika"; "Traveling to China."
- Mar 20** *Assignment:* 3 page discussion paper comparing traditional accounts of the medieval economy with more recent evaluations of it. Due by 5pm.
- Mar 23-25 **Spring Break**
- Mar 30 **The plague and its consequences.**
- Apr 1/3 *Reading:* Barbara Harvey, "Introduction: the crisis of the early fourteenth century."
Selections from Henry Knighton, Chronicle, 1348.
Evelyn Domar, "The causes of slavery or serfdom," Journal of Economic History, March 1970: 18-32.
Mark Bailey, "Demographic Decline in Late Medieval England," Economic History Review, No. 1, 1996: 1-19.
Background reading: Epstein, ESHLME, Chapter 6.
Lecture note quick quiz.
- Apr 6-8/10 **Overseas expansion of Europe.**
Reading: David S. Jones, "Virgin Soils Revisited," William and Mary Quarterly, 60, 2003.
Columbus, selections from the Diario.
- Apr 6** *Assignment:* 4 page paper due on the plague and its consequences.
- Apr 13-15/17 **Methodology and theories of historical demography**

Reading: Wrigley and Schofield's Population History of England, tables pp. 468, 474.
Robert Fogel, "Second thoughts on the European escape from hunger: famines, chronic malnutrition, and mortality rates."
Optional: Kremer, "Population growth and technological change."

For digging deeper: Mark Hatcher, 'Understanding the population history of England, 1450-1750', Past & Present, 2003.

Apr 20 **No Class:** Patriot's Day vacation.

Apr 22/24 In class debate: topic to be assigned on April 13th in lecture.

Apr 27-29/1 **Grand theories about economic development: Malthusians, Marxists and the neo-Classical tradition.**

Reading: Immanuel Wallerstein, "Three Paths of National Development in 16th Century Europe," in The Capitalist World Economy.

Rosenthal and Wong, *Before and Beyond Divergence*, Harvard Press:2011, Chapters 1 and 2.
Hatcher and Bailey, Modelling the Middle Ages, pp. 174-201.

Further reading: Brenner, "Agrarian class structure and economic development," Past and Present, Feb. 1976; and Mauricio Drelichman, "All that Glitters: Precious metals, rent seeking and the decline of Spain," European Review of Economic History, December, 2005: 313-36.

May 1 *Assignment:* First draft of 6-page paper. Due by 5pm.

May 4-6/8 **Capitalist organization of economic life: the globalization of trade and the rise of consumer culture.**

Reading: Fernand Braudel, The Wheels of Commerce, pp. 231-249. (Skim)
McCants, "Exotic Goods, Popular Consumption, and the Standard of Living: Thinking About Globalization in the Early Modern World," Journal of World History.
Jan de Vries, "Economic Growth before and after the Industrial Revolution: a Modest Proposal," in Prak, Early Modern Capitalism.

Please bring with you to class a copy of Gregory King's "Social Table."

May 6/8 Paper drafts returned with comments.

May 11 **Measuring welfare.**

Reading: Amartya Sen, The Standard of Living, pp. 1-38; and I highly recommend you look at the comment by Keith Hart, pp. 70-93.

May 13 **The rise of north-western Europe: improvements in the standard of living.**

Class meets all together for final session.

Further Reading to carry the story forward (Recommended): Joel Mokyr, "Dear Labor, cheap Labor, and the Industrial Revolution," from Favorites of Fortune, ed. By Paul Bairoch, Harvard University Press, 1991.

Sara Horrell, Jane Humphries and Hans-Joachim Voth, "Destined for Deprivation: Human Capital Formation and Intergenerational Poverty in Nineteenth-Century England," Explorations in Economic History, No. 3, 2001: 339-365.

May 13 *Assignment:* Final version of 6 page paper.

