

Economics 339
Economic History
T-Th 2:00-3:15
Buckman 222

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Office hours: T-Th 10-11am, 3:15-4:15pm and appt.

Prerequisite Economics 100 or equivalent. It is crucial that you be able to recognize some basic economic terms and models. There is no history prerequisite, although a rough understanding of world and US history will help.

Goal You will learn that economies of the present day grew out of an incredible variety of economic arrangements that obtained over a long spell of time, and across the world. Typically, economies based on rule of law, property rights, and markets were the most prosperous, and those based on command caused the most suffering. As history, this course will be episodic rather than forming a comprehensive narrative. This course fulfills F2i and F3 requirements.

Texts The following books are available at the bookstore. You can also buy them online.

Author	Title
Landes**	<i>Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development</i>
Wrigley**	<i>Energy and the English Industrial Revolution</i>
Ogilvie*	<i>European Trade and Institutions: Merchant Guilds, 1000-1800</i>
Overton*	<i>Agricultural Revolution in England</i>
Conquest*	<i>Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization and the Terror Famine</i>
Barnhart*	<i>Japan Prepares for Total War: The Search for Economic Security, 1919-41</i>
Olmstead and Rhode*	<i>Creating Abundance: Biological Innovation and American Agricultural Development</i>

** = required; * = recommended. Readings from the recommended texts will be available online; the readings from the required books will not.

Requirements You will write three five page papers and two in-class essay exams. Each paper will be worth 15 percent of your grade, each exam 25 percent, and attendance and class participation 5 percent. You will have three opportunities for extra credit, if you attend talks on campus by three economic historians. The first will be by Gavin Wright (Stanford) on Tuesday 20 January in Hardie Auditorium on the Civil Rights Revolution. Joshua Hendrickson (Ole Miss) will speak on February 13, and Howard Bodenhorn (Clemson) on April 10.

The midterm exam will be Thursday 5 March. Do not plan to leave Memphis before then. The final exam will be Monday 4 May at 5:30pm. Do **not** plan to leave Memphis before the final exam. As the Rhodes College Catalogue reports, "Unexcused absence from a final examination automatically results in failure for the course."

Classroom I expect you to attend every class, to enter the room before we start, and not to leave until the class meeting concludes. That said, I will only take attendance for the first couple of weeks until I learn your names. If you miss class, your grade will suffer more or less automatically. If you are unable to attend, get lecture notes from a classmate and see me later

about anything unclear. You will find it most helpful to take lecture notes with pen/pencil and paper, and later to transcribe them onto a computer.

Schedule = 28 meetings

week	Tuesday	Thursday
I		Jan 15: Medieval Europe: McCormick
II	Jan 20 Medieval Europe: McCloskey and Nash; Roehl	Jan 22 Late medieval/early modern Europe: Ogilvie on trade
III	Jan 27 Late medieval/early modern Europe: North and Weingast	Jan 29 Land tenure in medieval Europe
IV	Feb 3 Agricultural revolution: Overton and Turner	Feb 5 Industrial revolution in England: Landes
V	Feb 10 Industrial revolution in England: Wrigley	Feb 12 Industrial Revolution on the Continent: Landes PAPER #1 DUE
VI	Feb 17 Industrial Revolution on the Continent: Landes	Feb 19 Eastern Europe: Gerschenkron
VII	Feb 24 Eastern Europe: Conquest	Feb 26 Europe and Asia comparatively: Pomeranz
VIII	Mar 3 Europe and Asia comparatively: Broadberry and Gupta	Mar 5. MIDTERM EXAM
IX	Mar 10 SPRING BREAK	Mar 12 SPRING BREAK
X	Mar 17 China: Markets and command. Li; Chang and Wen	Mar 19 Japan: Growth and war. Vaporis. PAPER #2 DUE
XI	Mar 24 Japan: Growth and war; Barnhart.	Mar 26 America: Market genesis. Galenson.
XII	Mar 31 America: Market genesis; Rothenberg	Apr 2 EASTER BREAK
XIII	Apr 7 America: Slavery. Steckel	Apr 9 America: Costs of war. Hacker
XIV	Apr 14 America: Agricultural innovation. Olmstead and Rhode.	Apr 16 America: Risk in agricultural markets. McGuire. PAPER #3 DUE
XV	Apr 21 America: Industrial growth. Wright	Apr 23 America: Competition in industrial markets. McGee
XVI	Apr 28 America: Depression and New Deal. Brown.	Apr 30 LAST MEETING America: War and postwar. Higgs; Wright.
Final	Monday, May 4, 2015, 5:30 P.M.	

Readings (JEH=*Journal of Economic History*; AER=*American Economic Review*)

I. Medieval Europe

McCormick, "New light on the Dark Ages," *Past and Present* 177 (2002): 17-54.

McCloskey and Nash, "Corn at interest," *AER* 74 (1984): 174-187.

Roehl, "Plan and reality in a medieval monastic economy: The Cistercians." *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History IX* (1972): 83-114.

II. Political economy of late medieval/early modern Europe

*Ogilvie, *Institutions and European Trade*, chapters 2 and 8

North and Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment," *JEH*, 49 (1989), pp. 803-832.

III. Land tenure and the Agricultural Revolution

*Overton, *Agricultural Revolution in England*, chapter 4 ("Institutional change").

Turner, "English open fields and enclosures." *JEH* 46 (1986): 669-692.

IV. The Industrial Revolution in England

** Landes, *Unbound Prometheus*, Chapter 2 ("The Industrial Revolution in Britain.")

** Wrigley, *Energy and the English Industrial Revolution* (Cambridge UP, 2010). All.

V. The Industrial Revolution on the Continent

**Landes, *Unbound Prometheus*. Chs 3 and 4 required (124-230); ch 5 (231-358) optional.

VI. Eastern Europe: Promise and catastrophe

Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective" in *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: A Book of Essays* (Harvard UP 1962), pp. 5-31.

*Conquest, *Harvest of Sorrow*. Chs 7 and 8

VII. Europe and Asia in comparative perspective

Pomeranz, *Great Divergence* (Princeton UP, 2001). Introduction, pp. 3-28.

Broadberry and Gupta, "The early modern great divergence" *Econ Hist Rev* 59 (2006): 2-31.

VIII. China in brief.

Li, "Integration and disintegration in north China's grain markets." *JEH* 60 (2000): 665-99.

Chang and Wen, "Communal Dining and the Chinese Famine of 1958-61." *Econ Dev and Cult Ch* 46 (1997): 1-34.

IX. Japan in brief.

Crawcour, "Tokugawa Period and Japan's Preparation for Modern Economic Growth." *J Japan Stud* 1 (1974): 113-125.

Vaporis, "Alternate attendance and Japanese culture in the early modern period." *J Japan Stud* 23 (1997): 25-67.

* Barnhart, *Japan Prepares for Total War*. Chs 3 (64-76) and 9 (162-175).

X. Early America and its markets

Rothenberg, "The Market and Massachusetts Farmers, 1750-1855." *JEH* 41 (1981): 283-314.

Galenson, "The Market Evaluation of Human Capital: The Case of Indentured Servitude." *J Pol Econ* 89 (1981): 446-467.

XI. America's Original Sin

Steckel, "A Peculiar Population: The Nutrition, Health, and Mortality of American Slaves from Childhood to Maturity." *JEH* 46 (1986): 721-741.

Hacker, "A Census-Based Count of the Civil War Dead." *Civil War History* 57 (2011): 307-348.

XII. Agriculture in America

*Olmstead and Rhode, *Creating Abundance: Biological Innovation and American Agricultural Development*. Chs 4 ("Cotton: Varietal Innovation and the Making of King Cotton") and 5 ("Cotton and its Enemies"); optional: Ch 6, "The Other Revolution in the Cotton Economy".

McGuire, "Economic Causes of Late-Nineteenth Century Agrarian Unrest." *JEH* 41 (1981): 835-52.

XIII. Industry in America

Wright, "Origins of American Industrial Success, 1879-1940." *AER*. 80 (1990): 651-68.

McGee, "Predatory Price Cutting: The Standard Oil Case," *J Law and Econ* 1 (1958): 137-69.

XIV. Depression, New Deal, War, Postwar

Brown, "Fiscal Policy in the Thirties: A Reappraisal." *AER* 46, No. 5 (Dec., 1956), pp. 857-879.

Higgs, "Wartime Prosperity? The U.S. Economy in the 1940s." *JEH* 52 (1992), pp. 41-60.

Wright, "The Civil Rights Revolution as Economic History." *JEH* 59 (1999): 267-289.