Economics 374: European Economic History

Professor: Jared Rubin
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Phone: (714) 516-4530
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Website: http://www.jaredcrubin.com/
Twitter: @jaredcrubin
Office Hours: Monday, 2:15-4:15pm, or by appointment

Prerequisites
Economics 200

Course Requirements
The course will consist of two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and one term paper. There will be no make-up examinations. If you miss a mid-term, the final will carry the additional weight if and only if you present a valid excuse (e.g., doctor’s note).

The term paper is due in class on the date listed below. Papers are due at the beginning of class on that date. Any papers turned in after this time will be accepted, but will carry a penalty of 10 points per 24-hour time period.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, the student should be able to understand:

- The role that institutions play in economic development
- How economies work without widespread rule of law
- How different institutions work to facilitate trade
- The connection between political institutions and economic outcomes
- The economic differences between Europe and the rest of the world prior to and after the Industrial Revolution
- The role that religion played in facilitating or inhibiting economic outcomes in European history
- The connection between technology and economic outcomes
Students will also be required to:

- Write a term paper using economic logic to explain some event(s) in European economic history
- Participate in class discussions
- Talk one-on-one with the professor at least once regarding the term paper

Course Description
This course analyzes the evolution of European economic institutions and the development of industry, commerce, and finance from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Industrial Revolution. It traces the historical path which culminated in European economic hegemony.

Course Learning Goals
This course facilitates critical thinking. This class will provide: 1) a general overview of important events and periods in the economic history of Europe; 2) an analysis of important historical events from an economic viewpoint.

Program Learning Outcomes
Knowledge of Economics: Each student will demonstrate knowledge of modern microeconomic and macroeconomic theories and apply these theories to analyze economic policies and problems.

Problem Solving Skill: Each student will possess the quantitative and technical skills to analyze data and interpret results to improve economic performance.

Communication: Each student will be able to communicate clearly, concisely and professionally.

Global Professional: Each student will demonstrate awareness of ethical, cultural and professional perspectives of the global economic environment.

Chapman Policy on Academic Integrity
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Chapman Policy on Students with Disabilities
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. You also may contact the Office of Disability Services at www.chapman.edu/disabilities. The University, through the Disability Services Office, will work with the faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs.
The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Important Addresses and Telephone Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disabilities Services</th>
<th>Tutoring, Learning, and Testing Center</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>410 N. Glassell</td>
<td>Cecil B. DeMille Hall 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (714) 997-6778</td>
<td>Phone: (714) 997-6828</td>
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**Withdrawal and Drop Policy**

See your Chapman University Catalogue. The last day to add courses is Friday, February 8. The last day to drop courses without record of enrollment is Friday, February 8. The last day to withdraw from courses is Friday, April 12.

**Required Texts**


Most of the other readings are academic articles. You can download these articles on JSTOR.org or Google Scholar using any computer hooked into the Chapman network or through the Chapman library website.

**Grading**

There are 100 possible points. The grading breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Participation</th>
<th>20 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination #1</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination #2</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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There are no make-up exams, nor are there early or late sittings for exams. I grade on a ten-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>73-76.99</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-62.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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**Term Paper**

**Assignment:** You will investigate some event in European economic history. Your paper must focus on an event between the fall of the (Western) Roman Empire and the end of World War II. You will be required to stop by my office at least two weeks prior to the due date to discuss your paper topic. This office visit will count towards your class participation grade. You may use papers or books read in this class as sources, but you must cite at least five outside sources. I will deduct points if it is shorter than seven pages.

**Expectations:** The purpose of this exercise is to apply economic logic to some event in European economic history. An economic analysis is mandatory—a mere description of events will not suffice. Your paper should search for a causal link between two or more phenomena. That is, you should construct a well-structured economic hypothesis and argue its merits using historical information.

**Course Outline**

This is a very tentative schedule and is subject to change at any time. All due dates and examination dates will not be changed, however.

*: Optional Readings – readings that are referenced in the lectures, but are not at the center of the lecture. Students interested in the topics should consult these readings.

**: Podcasts – from the Tides of History podcast available at [https://wondery.com/shows/tides-of-history/](https://wondery.com/shows/tides-of-history/). These give an informative and entertaining background of the history covered in the section. Highly recommended for helping form term paper topics and strengthening essay answers on your exams.

I. WHAT IS ECONOMIC HISTORY?

**January 28**

Introduction

**January 30, February 4**

Review of European history and geography using political maps, 300-2000

(http://www.euratlas.net/history/europe/)


** Tides of History podcast: Episode 1 “The Ebbs and Flow of History”
II. THE MEDIEVAL ECONOMY

February 6, 11
Agriculture and Guilds
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 25 “The Black Death”
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 31 “Peasants and the Medieval Countryside”

February 13, 18
Trade and Exchange
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 9 “The Rise of Capitalism and the Early Modern Economic Explosion”

February 20, 25
Law, Exchange, and Comparison with the Middle East
** Tides of History podcast: “Interview with Jared Rubin on Islam, Christianity, and the Rise of the West”
MIDTERM EXAMINATION #1:
WEDNESDAY, February 27

March 4
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 35 “Holy War and the Rise of the Ottomans”

III. THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

March 6, 11, 13
Technological Change and the Reformation
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 18 “Gutenberg and the Printing Press”
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 22 “Martin Luther and the Early Reformation”
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 23 “John Calvin, Henry VIII, and the Counter-Reformation”

March 18, 20
SPRING BREAK
March 25, 27

Institutional Change in Western Europe
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 39 “The Wars of the Roses”

April 1, 3

The Rise of Cities and the State
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 2 “The Rise of the State”
** Tides of History podcast: Episode 5 “The Military Revolution, 1350-1650”
April 8, 10
Colonization


** Tides of History podcast: Episode 20 “Medieval Exploration and the Age of Discovery”

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 21 “Columbus, da Gama, and the Age of Discovery”

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** MIDTERM EXAMINATION #2:**
** MONDAY, April 15 **

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IV. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

April 17, 22, 24

* Technology and the Industrial Revolution
April 24, 29, May 1
Consequences of Industrialization: Income Distribution and Wages
   Inequality in Europe since 1500,” Journal of Economic History.
Robert C. Allen (2001). “The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle
   Ages to World War I,” Explorations in Economic History.
Robert C. Allen, Jean-Pascal Bassino, Debin Ma, Christine Moll-Murata, and Jan Luiten van
   with Europe, Japan, and India,” Economic History Review.
   Divergence: A Study in Historical National Accounting, 980–1850,” Journal of Economic
   History.

May 1: Term Paper Due

May 6, 8
In-class Review

**Final Examination:**
Wednesday, May 15 at 1:30AM