Introduction: Economics 765 is the second half of the two-semester PhD sequence in economic history. The primary goal of the sequence is to begin training graduate students to do professional level research in economic history – meaning, to write papers on economic history topics that could be submitted for publication. The reading list is current research plus some “classics”. All readings are on the course website on Blackboard.

Requirements:

In-class: two class presentations with PowerPoint of a (CP) paper from the syllabus. Regular attendance and class participation is EXPECTED.

Final Exam: The final is take-home, and consists of two parts.

--Part one: you are required to write one referee report plus accompanying “letter to the journal editor”. The paper is to be selected from a list provided by the instructor.

--Part two: you are required to develop a reading list on a topic in economic history. The topic is to be selected from a list provided by the instructor.

Materials for the final will be posted to the course website at least one month in advance of the scheduled date for the final exam. Both are due (by email) on the scheduled final exam day, 5 PM.

Research Meetings. Two 15-20 minute meetings during the semester. At these meetings we will discuss
research. One of these meetings can be about any topic of your choosing (I will do my best to be helpful, obviously I will be better at offering suggestions at some topics than others). The second meeting should be about an extension of a paper on the reading list – for example, a different outcome variable using the same identification strategy or using more/better data (e.g. 100 percent complete count US census data).

Reading List

*Required

(CP): Suitable for class presentation

1. Introduction


2. Agriculture and Environment


3. Historical Manufacturing in the United States


(CP) Jeanne Lafortune, José Tessada, and Ethan Lewis. 2018. “People and Machines: A Look at the Evolving Relationship Between Capital and Skill in Manufacturing 1860-1930 Using Immigration Shocks,” working paper, Department of Economics, Catholic University of Chile.


4. Transportation


5. Urban Economic History


(CP): Philipp Ager, Katherine Eriksson, Casper Worm Hansen, and Lars Lonstrup. 2019. “How the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Shaped Economic...
Activity in the West,” NBER Working Paper #25727, April.


6. Race (I): Slavery and its Aftermath


7. Race (II): The Historical Evolution of Racial Inequality


8. The Great Depression and World War Two, Part I


*Gary Richardson and William Troost. 2009. “Monetary Intervention Mitigated Banking Panics during the Great Depression: Evidence from a


9. The Great Depression and World War Two, Part II


11. Institutions and Culture: Part One


12. Institutions and Culture: Part Two


13. The Great Divergence


