



Economics 374: European Economic History

Professor: Jared Rubin
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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.

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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

Disabilities Services

410 N. Glassell
Phone: (714) 997-6778

Tutoring, Learning, and Testing Center

Cecil B. DeMille Hall 130
Phone: (714) 997-6828

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

Joel Mokyr (1990). *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress*. Oxford.

Jared Rubin (2017). *Rulers, Religion, and Riches: Why the West Got Rich and the Middle East Did Not*. Cambridge.

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:

Class Participation	20 points
Term Paper	30 points
Midterm Examination #1	15 points
Midterm Examination #2	15 points
Final Examination	20 points

There are no make-up exams, nor are there early or late sittings for exams. I grade on a ten-point scale:

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade
93	A	80-82.99	B-	67-69.99	D+
90-92.99	A-	77-79.99	C+	63-66.99	D
87-89.99	B+	73-76.99	C	60-62.99	D-
83-86.99	B	70-72.99	C-	<60	F

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/>. 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/>)

Rubin (2017). Chapter 1.

Nathan Nunn (2009). “The Importance of History for Economic Development,” *Annual Review of Economics*.

* Douglass C. North (1991). “Institutions,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

* Richard A. Easterlin (1981). “Why Isn’t the Whole World Developed?,” *Journal of Economic History*.

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 1 “The Ebbs and Flow of History”

II. THE MEDIEVAL ECONOMY

February 6, 11

Agriculture and Guilds

Douglass North and Robert Thomas (1971). “The Rise and Fall of the Manorial System: A Theoretical Model,” *Journal of Economic History*.

Donald McCloskey (1976). “English Open Fields as Behavior Towards Risk,” *Research in Economic History*.

* Gary Richardson (2005). “The Prudent Village: Risk Pooling Institutions in Medieval English Agriculture,” *Journal of Economic History*.

S.R. Epstein (1998). “Craft Guilds, Apprenticeship, and Technological Change in Preindustrial Europe,” *Journal of Economic History*.

Gary Richardson (2005). “Craft Guilds and Christianity in Late-Medieval England: A Rational-Choice Analysis,” *Rationality and Society*.

* David de la Croix, Matthias Doepke, and Joel Mokyr (2018). “Clans, Guilds, and Markets: Apprenticeship Institutions and Growth in the Pre-Industrial Economy,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

** 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

Avner Greif (2000). “The Fundamental Problem of Exchange: A Research Agenda in Historical Institutional Analysis,” *European Review of Economic History*.

Avner Greif (1989). “Reputation and Coalitions in Medieval Trade: Evidence on the Maghribi Traders,” *Journal of Economic History*.

Jonathan F. Schulz (2018). “The Catholic Church, Kin Networks, and Institutional Development.” Working paper.

Avner Greif, Paul R. Milgrom, and Barry R. Weingast (1994). “Coordination, Commitment and Enforcement: The Case of the Merchant Guild,” *Journal of Political Economy*.

Avner Greif (2006). “The Birth of Impersonal Exchange: The Community Responsibility System and Impartial Justice,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 9 “The Rise of Capitalism and the Early Modern Economic Explosion”

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 10 “Big Business, Small Business, and the Rise of Capitalism”

February 20, 25

Law, Exchange, and Comparison with the Middle East

Rubin (2017). Chapters 2-4.

** 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

Timur Kuran (2005). "The Absence of the Corporation in Islamic Law: Origins and Persistence," *American Journal of Comparative Law*.

Eliana Balla and Noel D. Johnson (2009). "Fiscal Crisis and Institutional Change in the Ottoman Empire and France," *Journal of Economic History*.

** 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

Rubin (2017). Chapters 5-6.

Eltjo Buringh and Jan Luiten van Zanden (2009). "Charting the 'Rise of the West': Manuscripts and Printed Books in Europe, A Long-Term Perspective from the Sixth through Eighteenth Centuries," *Journal of Economic History*.

Sascha O. Becker, Steven Pfaff, and Jared Rubin (2016). "Causes and Consequences of the Protestant Reformation," *Explorations in Economic History*.

Murat Iyigun (2008). "Luther and Suleyman," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 18 "Gutenberg and the Printing Press"

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 19 "The Printing Press and the Information Revolution"

** 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

Rubin (2017). Chapters 7-8.

Avner Greif and Jared Rubin (2018). “Political Legitimacy and the Institutional Foundations of Constitutional Government: The Case of England.”

* Davide Cantoni, Jeremiah Dittmar, and Noam Yuchtman (2018). “Religious Competition and Reallocation: the Political Economy of Secularization in the Protestant Reformation,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Jan Luiten van Zanden, Eltjo Buringh, and Maarten Bosker (2012). “The Rise and Decline of European Parliaments, 1188-1789,” *Economic History Review*.

Douglass North and Barry Weingast (1989). “Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England,” *Journal of Economic History*.

* Saumitra Jha (2015). “Financial Asset Holdings and Political Attitudes: Evidence from Revolutionary England,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

** Tides of History podcast: Episode 39 “The Wars of the Roses”

April 1, 3

The Rise of Cities and the State

Maarten Bosker, Eltjo Buringh, and Jan Luiten van Zanden (2013). “From Baghdad to London: Unraveling Urban Development in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, 800–1800,” *Review of Economics & Statistics*.

Lisa Blaydes and Eric Chaney (2013). “The Feudal Revolution and Europe’s Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE,” *American Political Science Review*.

Mark Dincecco (2009). “Fiscal Centralization, Limited Government, and Public Revenues in Europe,” *Journal of Economic History*.

* Mark Dincecco (2015). “The Rise of Effective States in Europe,” *Journal of Economic History*.

* Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama (2017). “States and Economic Growth: Capacity and Constraints,” *Explorations in Economic History*.

** 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

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (2001). “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation,” *American Economic Review*.

* Melissa Dell (2010). “The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining *Mita*,” *Econometrica*.

* Felipe Valencia Caicedo (2019). “The Mission: Human Capital Transmission, Economic Persistence, and Culture in South America,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Abhijit Banerjee and Lakshmi Iyer (2005). “History, Institutions, and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India,” *American Economic Review*.

Nathan Nunn (2008). “The Long Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

* Warren C. Whatley (2018). “The Gun-Slave Hypothesis and the 18th Century British Slave Trade,” *Explorations in Economic History*.

Stelios Michalopoulos and Elias Papaioannou (2016). “The Long-Run Effects of the Scramble for Africa,” *American Economic Review*.

** 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”

<p>MIDTERM EXAMINATION #2: MONDAY, April 15</p>

IV. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

April 17, 22, 24

Technology and the Industrial Revolution

Mokyr (1990). Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 7.

Joel Mokyr (2018). “The Past and the Future of Innovation: Some Lessons from Economic History,” *Explorations in Economic History*.

Robert C. Allen. (2011). “Why the Industrial Revolution was British: Commerce, Induced Invention, and the Scientific Revolution,” *Economic History Review*.

Morgan Kelly and Cormac Ó Gráda (2016). “Adam Smith, Watch Prices, and the Industrial Revolution,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

* Robert C. Allen (2009). *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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April 24, 29, May 1

Consequences of Industrialization: Income Distribution and Wages

Peter Lindert (1986). “Unequal English Wealth since 1670,” *Journal of Political Economy*.

Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez (2014). “Inequality in the Long Run,” *Science*.

* Philip T. Hoffman, David S. Jacks, Patricia A. Levin, and Peter H. Lindert (2002). “Real 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 Zanden (2011). “Wages, Prices, and Living Standards in China, 1738–1925: In Comparison with Europe, Japan, and India,” *Economic History Review*.

Stephen Broadberry, Hanhui Guan, and David Daokui Li (2018). “China, Europe, and the Great 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
