



Economics 496: The Path to the Modern Economy

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:15am-2:15pm, or by appointment

Prerequisites

Economics 200, 201

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, the student should be able to understand the various mechanisms that contribute to long-run economic growth, including (but not limited to):

- Institutions (political, legal, economic, religious, etc.)
- Natural endowments and geography
- Technology and innovation
- Violence and warfare
- Human capital
- Culture

The student will be exposed to various theories on why the “modern economy” rose when and where it did. Students will be expected to analyze these theories and apply critical thinking to compare and contrast the theories.

Students will also be required to:

- Write a group term paper analyzing at least three theories on the “rise of the modern economy”
- Present, with their group, their paper to the rest of the class
- Participate in class discussions

Course Description

This course analyzes the evolution of the modern economy from various perspectives. It overviews various arguments for why the modern economy arose first in Europe and not in other parts of the world, such as China or the Middle East.

Course Learning Goals

This course is aimed at facilitating critical thinking. This class will provide: 1) a general overview of the forces that facilitate modern economic growth; 2) a comparison between various leading theories on the “rise of the West.”

Academic Integrity Policy

Chapman University is a community of scholars that 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 be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the university Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's policy on Academic Integrity at www.chapman.edu/academics/academicintegrity/index.aspx.

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 contact the Disability Services Office. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or visit www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Equity and Diversity Policy

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman's Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please see the full description of this policy at <http://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/eoo.aspx>. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the dean of students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

Important Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Disabilities Services:	Tutoring, Learning, and Testing Center:
410 N. Glassell	Cecil B. DeMille Hall 130
Phone: (714) 997-6778	Phone: (714) 997-6828

Withdrawal and Drop Policy

See your Chapman University Catalogue. The last day to add courses is Friday, September 6. The last day to drop courses without record of enrollment is Friday, September 6. The last day to withdraw from courses is Friday, November 1.

Required Texts

Gregory Clark (2007). *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*.
Philip T. Hoffman (2015). *Why Did Europe Conquer the World?*
Deirdre McCloskey (2010). *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World*.
Joel Mokyr (1990). *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress*.
Jared Rubin (2017). *Rulers, Religion, and Riches: Why the West Got Rich and the Middle East Did Not*.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of one group presentation and one term paper. The term paper is due *via email* on the final day of class, at the beginning of class. Emails should be postmarked before the beginning of class.

Any papers turned in after this time will be accepted, but will carry a penalty of 10 points per 24-hour time period.

Grading

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

Class Participation	15 points
Homework	10 points
Individual Presentation	15 points
Group Term Paper	20 points
Group Presentation	20 points
Final Exam	20 points

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

Class Participation

Class participation is vital in this class. It is expected that you will have done all of the readings *in advance* of the class for which they are assigned. For most of the course, we will be discussing the five assigned books. This will consist of a 15-minute student presentation (see below) introducing the main topics, and then a discussion for the remainder of class. You are expected to speak in every class, and you will be graded on the quality of your comments. It will be obvious if you are unprepared, and this will be reflected in your grade.

Homework

With the exception of the first class and the group presentations at the end of the semester, there will be homework due at the beginning of *every class*. The homework is simple: please come prepared with 5 questions related to the readings for class. They can be questions you would like answered, questions you think would open up conversation, or questions linking multiple readings. These questions can be printed out or hand-written, but you must turn in one copy at the beginning of class. These questions are meant to facilitate conversation. When the conversation stalls, I may choose one of you at random to read one of your questions to the class. Homework will be graded on a 0-2 scale. You will receive 0 points if you do not turn it in, 1 point if it is unclear from your questions whether you have done the reading, and 2 points for a satisfactory job.

Individual Presentations

Each class will be split into two parts, corresponding to two readings. At the beginning of each part of each class, one student will be assigned to present an overview of the material. The presentation should take 15 minutes. Each student will make only one presentation during the semester. Presentations will begin the third week of the semester. I will be randomly assigning each student to a presentation after the second week. Your slot may be subject to change as students add and drop the course.

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Group Term Paper and Presentation

Please see the handout for details on the term paper and presentation.

Course Outline

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

August 26

Introduction to the course

August 28

1st half: Clark, ch. 1

2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 1; Mokyr, ch. 1

September 2: Labor Day

September 4

1st half: Hoffman, ch. 1

2nd half: Rubin, ch. 1

Individual presentation times will be assigned at the end of class

Groups will be assigned at the end of class

September 9

1st half: McCloskey, ch. 5-6

2nd half: Clark, ch. 2

September 11

1st half: Clark, ch. 3

2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 7-8

September 16-18: reading holiday ... use this week wisely to catch up and get ahead of the reading

September 23

1st half: Rubin, ch. 2

2nd half: Hoffman, ch. 2

September 25

1st half: Rubin, ch. 3

2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 33-34

Due date for groups to choose the book for their paper and presentation

September 30

1st half: Mokyr, ch. 7

2nd half: Rubin, ch. 5

October 2

1st half: Clark, ch. 6

2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 30-32

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October 7

1st half: Clark, ch. 13
2nd half: Hoffman, ch. 3

October 9

1st half: Clark, ch. 7
2nd half: Mokyry, ch. 5

October 14

1st half: Hoffman, ch. 5
2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 28-29

October 16

1st half: Mokyry, ch. 9
2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 38-39

October 21

1st half: Rubin, ch. 6
2nd half: Clark, ch. 10

October 23

1st half: Clark, ch. 11
2nd half: Mokyry, ch. 10

October 28

1st half: Clark, ch. 12
2nd half: Rubin, ch. 7

October 30

1st half: Mokyry, ch. 11
2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 40-41

November 4

1st half: Rubin, ch. 8
2nd half: Clark, ch. 8

November 6

1st half: Hoffman, ch. 6
2nd half: McCloskey, ch. 42

November 11, 13, 18, 20; December 2, 4

Group Presentations

November 25, 27: Thanksgiving recess

December 4: Term Paper Due

December 12

Final Exam, 1:30 PM