

California State University, Fullerton
Economics 351
Jared Rubin
Spring 2009

European Economic History

Professor: Jared Rubin
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Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:30-12:30pm, or by appointment

Prerequisites

Economics 201

Required Texts

North, Douglass 1981. *Structure and Change in Economic History*. Norton.

We will also read academic articles. You can download these articles on JSTOR.org using any computer hooked into the CSUF network or through the CSUF library website. I will also post all articles on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of one mid-term examination, a final examination, and one term paper. There will be no make-up examinations. If the mid-term is missed, the final will carry the additional weight **if and only if** a valid excuse (e.g., doctor's note) is presented.

The term paper is due in class on the date listed below. I will accept papers without penalty up through the end of the class period. Any papers turned in after this time will be accepted, but will carry a penalty (unless, of course, you have a valid, documented excuse).

Course Description

This course overviews and analyzes the evolution of European economic institutions and their relation to the development of industry, commerce, transportation and finance in the principal European countries.

Course Goals

This course is aimed at facilitating 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. The term paper should include both of these elements, especially the latter.

Academic Dishonesty

Become very familiar with the statement on academic dishonesty found in your California State University Catalogue.

Withdrawal and Drop Policy

See your California State University Catalogue.

Grading

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

Class Participation	10 points
Term Paper	40 points
Midterm Examination	20 points
Final Examination	30 points

There will be no make-up exams, and no early or late sittings for exams. +/- grading will be employed. I will grade on a ten-point scale:

<u>Numeric Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Numeric Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
97-100	A+	73-76	C
93-96	A	70-72	C-
90-92	A-	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	63-66	D
83-86	B	60-62	D-
80-82	B-	<60	F
77-79	C+		

Term Paper

The topic of your term paper can cover any period or event in European economic history. It should be 7-12 pages long. You will be required to stop by my office at least once two weeks prior to the due date to discuss your paper topic. This office visit will count towards your class participation grade.

Students with Disabilities

The University requires students with disabilities to register with the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), located in UH-101 and at (714) 278 – 3112, in order to receive prescribed accommodations appropriate to their disability. Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor during the first week of classes about any disability or special needs that may require specific arrangements/ accommodations related to attending class sessions, completing course assignments, writing papers or quizzes/tests/examinations.

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.

I. WHAT IS ECONOMIC HISOTRY?

January 26:

Introduction

January 28:

Paul A. David, "Clio and the Economics of QWERTY," *American Economic Review*, 1985.

Richard A. Easterlin, "Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?," *Journal of Economic History*, 1981.

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February 2:

Douglass C. North, "Institutions," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 1991.

Paul A. David, "Why Are Institutions the 'Carriers of History?': Path Dependence and the Evolution of Conventions, Organizations, and Institutions" *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, 1994.

II. AN INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES

Introduction and growth in pre-industrial societies

February 4:

North (1981), Chapter 1-2

February 9:

North (1981), Chapters 3-4

February 11:

North (1981), Chapters 7-8

III. THE EARLY MEDIEVAL ECONOMY

February 16: Presidents' Day

February 18:

North (1981), Chapter 9-10.

February 23:

Agriculture – The Manorial System

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

Stefano Fenoaltea, "Authority, Efficiency, and Agricultural Organization in Medieval England and Beyond: A Hypothesis," *Journal of Economic History*, 1975.

February 25:

Agriculture – Risk and Market Failure

Donald McCloskey, "English Open Fields as Behavior Towards Risk," *Research in Economic History*, 1976.

Stefano Fenoaltea, "Risk, Transaction Costs and the Organization of Medieval Agriculture," *Explorations in Economic History*, 1976.

March 2:

Craft Guilds

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

Charles R. Hickson and Earl A. Thompson, "A New Theory of Guilds and European Economic Development," *Explorations in Economic History*, 1991.

March 4:

Trade and Exchange

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

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March 9:

Avner Greif, "On the Political Foundations of the Late Medieval Commercial Revolution: Genoa During the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries," *Journal of Economic History*, 1994.

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

March 11:

Avner Greif, "Impersonal Exchange without Impartial Law: The Community Responsibility System," *Chicago Journal of International Law*, 2004.

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

March 11: Term Paper Assigned

March 16:

Law, Exchange, and Comparison with the Islamic World

Jared Rubin, "Bills of Exchange, Interest Bans and Impersonal Exchange in Islam and Christianity," CSUF Working Paper, 2008.

March 18:

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

IV. THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

March 23:

North (1981), Chapter 11

March 25:

MIDTERM

March 30, April 1:

SPRING BREAK

April 6:

Institutional Change in Capital Markets

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

April 8:

Urbanization and Economic Growth

E.A. Wrigley, "Urban Growth and Agricultural Change: England and the Continent in the Early Modern Period," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 1985.

E.A. Wrigley, "A Simple Model of London's Importance in Changing English Society and Economy, 1650-1750," *Past and Present*, 1967.

V. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

April 13:

North (1981), Chapters 12-13

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April 15:

Joel Mokyr, "The Years of Miracles: The Industrial Revolution 1750-1830," in *The Lever of Riches*, 1990.
Joel Mokyr, "Understanding Technical Progress," in *The Lever of Riches*, 1990.

April 20:

Organization, Labor Intensity and Productivity Growth

Jan de Vries, "The Industrial Revolution and the Industrious Revolution," *Journal of Economic History*, 1994.
Joel Mokyr, "Demand vs. Supply in the Industrial Revolution," *Journal of Economic History*, 1977.

April 22:

Social Consequences of Industrialization

Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson, "English Workers' Living Standards During the Industrial Revolution: A New Look," *Economic History Review*, 1983.

Joel Mokyr, "Is There Still Life in the Pessimist Case?," *Journal of Economic History*, 1988.

April 27:

Sara Horrel and Jane Humphries, "Old Questions, New Data and Alternative Perspectives: Families' Living Standards in the Industrial Revolution," *Journal of Economic History*, 1992.

Peter Lindert, "Unequal English Wealth since 1670," *The Journal of Political Economy*, 1986.

April 29:

Jane Humphries, "'The Most Free from Objection...': The Sexual Division of Labor and Women in 19th Century England," *Journal of Economic History*, 1987.

David Weir, "Life Under Pressure: France and England, 1670-1870," *Journal of Economic History*, 1984.

May 4:

The Spread of Economic Growth

Robert Allen, "The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle Ages to World War I," *Explorations in Economic History*, 2001.

Lant Pritchett, "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 1997.

May 6:

Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective," in Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge, MA 1962).

Moses Abramovitz, "Catching Up, Forging Ahead, and Falling Behind," *Journal of Economic History*, 1986

May 6: Term Paper Due

May 11, 13:

In-class Review

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, MAY 18 AT 2:30PM
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