Course Overview

This is a survey course offered in the first term of the 2018-19 academic year. The course covers several important topics in economic history. It is designed to be within the mainstream economics tradition in that the focus is on topics and methodology rather than time periods or countries. The major topics covered are economic growth and wellbeing, agricultural and urban development, globalisation and migration, banking and monetary systems, and the Great Depression and recovery.

Aims

This course will build upon the core skills developed in the economic theory and econometrics courses in Year 2 in order to develop an understanding of some of the principle issues in economic history, while providing opportunities to practice and develop a range of key skills.

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered through a two-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar each week. Specific learning outcomes and prescribed reading are provided for each week of the course. Seminars will be based upon worksheets distributed in the previous week’s lecture. I will available for consultation during advertised office hours or by appointment.

Handouts

All lecture overheads and seminar problem sets for this course will be made available on the course Moodle page.
I will place suggested solutions for the seminar problem sets on the Moodle page only if students read the articles each week and participate in the seminars.

**Course Assessment**

The final mark is composed of

- Group Presentation 10% (presentation 5% + written report 5%)
- Midterm Exam 15%
- Final Exam 75%

A two-hour unseen exam for this course will be given during the summer term and will count for 75 per cent of the mark. Students are required to regularly attend seminars in order to sit the final exam.

In addition to the final exam, 25 per cent of your overall mark will be determined by continuous assessment. A one hour unseen mid-term test will count for 15 per cent of the overall mark. The mid-term test will be held in week 9 (week beginning 19 November).

The remaining 10 per cent of your overall mark will come from a presentation of one article from the reading list. Depending on the number of students in the class, the readings will be presented by groups of between 2 and 4 students. A further handout will follow on the nature of the presentation. If you have a legitimate reason why you can not participate on any particular date, you need to let me know well in advance.

Within one week after your presentation, a short written report (1-2 pages) based on the article is due. The report counts for 5 per cent of the total mark. The presentation and article report should contain a concise statement of the author’s research question; a brief outline of how the author answers the question including methods and data; and a list of critiques, praise, or questions you have regarding the adequacy of the methodology. Your report should be submitted through Turnitin anti-plagiarism software via the designated link on the Moodle course webpage.

The nature of the mid-term test and the presentations mean that it is not possible to reschedule them, even if they are missed for legitimate reasons. In cases where the academic coordinator has deemed an absence to be legitimate, the percentage mark achieved in the unaffected assessment will be proportionately scaled up to return an outcome for the whole course.
Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should:

- Understand how scholars have applied economic and statistical techniques to historical problems
- Understand the important factors that have contributed to the rise of the western capitalist economies
- Be able to critically evaluate alternative explanations in important historical debates
- Be able to apply analytical techniques used to evaluate historical issues to analogous contemporary debates

Reading

There is no textbook for this course. The readings will come from various books and journal articles covering the topics listed above. Some of these readings are somewhat technical. It is important that you are able to understand the main conclusions of an article, even if you do not fully understand the techniques used in the analysis. Do not just put an article down if you get stuck on a technical point, you still should be able to understand the basic methodology and the main conclusions. The seminar worksheets will help guide you through the most important aspects of the article. The readings for the course are listed below. Readings marked with an asterisk are available online at UK JSTOR (http://uk.jstor.org), which you can access on campus. All other readings will be on short reserve at the library. Readings will also be available on Moodle where possible.

General reading on why YOU should study economic history:
http://www.irisheconomy.ie/index.php/2013/07/05/why-economics-needs-economic-history/

Reading List

Articles marked with a * are available through JSTOR


Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches, 151-192.


**Supplementary materials**

Lectures will often utilise data in the form of charts and tables. Where appropriate, handouts of the data, charts, and tables will be provided. All handouts that are not copyright protected will be made available over Moodle. Lecture overheads will be available on Moodle prior to the lecture. Please do not come to my office to ask for copies of these materials; you have access through other means.

Seminar Outline: A list of questions pertaining to the readings will be distributed on Moodle in the week prior to the relevant seminar. Students are expected to have read the articles and prepared the seminar worksheets.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 – Week beginning 01, Oct.</td>
<td>Lecture: Long-term Economic Growth</td>
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<td>Seminar: No Seminar</td>
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<td>Week 3 – Week beginning 08, Oct.</td>
<td>Lecture: Measuring Living Standards</td>
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<td>Seminar: Komlos, “Shrinking in a growing Economy?&quot;; Crafts, “The Human Development Index”</td>
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<td>Week 4 – Week beginning 15, Oct.</td>
<td>Lecture: A Long History of Economic Growth</td>
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<td>Week 5 – Week beginning 22, Oct.</td>
<td>Lecture: Technology and Human Capital</td>
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<td>Week 6 – Week beginning 29, Oct.</td>
<td>Lecture: Institutions and Widening Markets</td>
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<td>Seminar: Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson, “Reversal of Fortune&quot;; Nunn, &quot;The Importance of History for Economic Development&quot;</td>
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<td>Week 7 – Week beginning 05, Nov.</td>
<td>Lecture: Reading Week, no Lecture</td>
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<td>Seminar: Reading Week, no Seminar</td>
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<td>Week 8 – Week beginning 12 Nov.</td>
<td>Lecture: Urbanization</td>
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<td>Week 9 – Week beginning 19, Nov.</td>
<td>Lecture: Mid-term Test</td>
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<td>Seminar: Hatton and Williamson, “International Migration&quot;; Abromitsky, Boustan and Eriksson, “Europe’s Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses”</td>
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<td>Week 10 – Week beginning 26, Nov.</td>
<td>Lecture: Globalisation</td>
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| Week 11 – Week beginning 3 Dec. | Lecture: The International Monetary System  
Seminar: Rockoff, "The Wizard of Oz as a Monetary Allegory"; Eichengreen and Flandreau, “Editors introduction” |
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| Week 12 – Week beginning 12, Dec. | Lecture: The Great Depression and Public Policy Responses  
Seminar: Romer, "The Nation in Depression"; Temin, “Socialism in Many Countries” |