

ECON 4514-002: Economic History of Europe

Dr. Nicole V. Jobin

University of Colorado: Fall 2007

MWF 1:00-1:50 - - Economics 117

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(contact me via e-mail to confirm which office – generally I will be in my Hellems office on Mondays and most Wednesdays)

Course Objectives

This course draws on economic reasoning to examine the transformation of European economies from a circumstance in which Malthusian population pressure on resources was the dominant historical force to one in which the growth of population and income per-capita has become the norm for industrialized countries. This transformation, covering the period from roughly 1200-1900, marks one of history's great changes yet the underlying causes of the process are only dimly understood. This course aims to provide both historical perspective and experience in the application of economic analysis to major issues. The topics of the course divide into three chronological and logical sections. The first examines the preconditions of European economic development, paying particular attention to the demographic, technological and institutional changes that supported growth. The second section focuses on the Industrial Revolution in England and Europe, asking what exactly it was, how it can be measured, and who benefited? The third examines the establishment, or not, of modern economic growth in other European economies. This course also enables us to explore the question "why are some so rich and some so poor?"

The examination of these themes will combine the historical literature with the theoretical constructs of economics. This course differs from other economics courses in that the issues come first, rather than the economics. Hopefully, this application of economic reasoning to issues that often are raised by non-economists will deepen your appreciation of the application of economics to the task of understanding the evolution of societies and the current global debate concerning north and south.

Texts

- Rondo Cameron and Larry Neal, *A Concise Economic History of the World*, 4th ed.
Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches*
Several articles and chapters located on CU Learn or through Norlin Library's access to Electronic Journals (see below)

Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aiding academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. In addition, obtaining material from “pre-written” sources available on the internet is considered an academic offense! All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council and those students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member involved and non-academic sanctions given by the Honor Code Council (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

Please refer to www.colorado.edu/honorcode to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the Honor Code Council at honor@colorado.edu.

For written work, keep the preparation materials, such as notes or outlines, and be prepared to discuss how you completed the work in case of any questions that arise. In cases of cheating or plagiarism, the academic penalty in this class will be failing the course. **Students should note that their work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be evaluated through TurnItIn.com, a plagiarism service provided to all faculty at CU-Boulder; and that this service retains a copy of the submitted work for future comparisons.**

Requirements and Evaluation

This course will be a combination of lecture material and in-class discussion. Students are expected to have done the specified readings before class and will be called upon to answer questions or to discuss points raised during the class. You are responsible for all the material on the reading list. Your grade will have the following components:

midterm exam (30%)

organizational meeting with Prof. Jobin. Two weeks following the presentation, each group will hand in a four - six page written assessment of the article. This assessment will place the article in context and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. You are expected to provide analysis of the article in this paper, not merely a summary.

Examinations

There will be two examinations. Both the midterm and the final will be take-home examinations. The midterm examination will be posted on the course site (CU Learn) on Friday October 5 and will be due in class Monday October 15. The final will be posted by Friday December 7 and due no later than Monday December 17 by 5pm in written form or via e-mail by 4:00 pm (at end of regularly scheduled final). All examinations must be double spaced and typed, no more than 1"-1.25" margins and regular 12-point fonts. You may turn in either a hard copy or e-mail me an electronic copy in Microsoft Word, pdf, or rich text format.

Course Web Site

This syllabus and any announcements or updates to the course may all be found on the class web site. Go to <https://culearn.colorado.edu> . At this page you will need to enter your CU id and password to access CULearn information. I do not post full lecture notes or grades on the web, but if you want to know where you stand in the class please send me an e-mail and I will print out a grade report to date for you. There is also a link to the syllabus at <http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/spring06-syllabi/spring06-syllabi-index.htm>.

A Note about Readings:

The Readings will be posted on CULearn with links where possible. If there is no link, look up the item in one of your texts or use the Journal information provided to find articles on the web through E-Journals via Norlin Library.

This schedule of readings is subject to change. Length of group presentations, class discussion, and other unforeseen circumstances may have an effect on how far we get through the material listed above. I will **NOT** change the exam dates, but may have to change the presentation dates if we get too far off schedule, so keep in touch with your group and with me. You may also check CULearn regularly as I will post any changes there.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

(Anything not from your textbooks should have a link on the CU Learn course site under “Readings” including the articles for group presentations – usually found in PDF format)

8/27

Before Class: De Vries & van der Woude – The
First Modern Economy – Ch 6 & De Vries –
Dutch Rural Economy in the Golden Age – Ch
7

10/17

Group #6

11/7	Group #10 Clark – Farm Wages and Living Standards in the Industrial Revolution: England 1670-1869 (Economic History Review, August 2003)	
	Before Class: Group #10 prepares presentation	In Class: Group #10 gives presentation, questions, etc.
11/9	Group #11 Horrell and Humphries – The Exploitation of Little Children: Child Labor and the Family Economy in the Industrial Revolution (Explorations in Economic History, October 1995)	
	Before Class: Groups #11 prepares presentation	In Class: Groups #11 gives presentation, questions, etc.
11/12	Group #12 Horrell and Humphries – Women’s Labor Force Participation and the Transition to the Male Breadwinner Family, 1760-1865 (Economic History Review, 1995)	
	Before Class: Group #12 prepares presentation	In Class: Group #12 gives presentation, questions, etc.
11/14	Group #13 Nicholas and Steckel – Heights and Living Standards of English Workers During the Early Years of Industrialization, 1770-1815 (Journal of Economic History, December 1991)	
	Before Class: Groups #13 prepares presentation	In Class: Groups #13 gives presentation, questions, etc.
11/16	Group #14 Oxley – The Seat of Death and Terror: Urbanization, Stunting, and Smallpox (Economic History Review, November 2003)	
	Before Class: Group #14 prepare presentation	In Class: Group #14 presents, questions, etc.
11/19-11/23	Fall Break and Thanksgiving – No Class	
11/26	The Role of Empire I	
	Before Class: Start reading for 11/29	In Class: Film & Discussion
11/28	The Role of Empire II	
	Before Class: Cain and Hopkins – The Political Economy of British Expansion Overseas 1750-1914, Ward – The Industrial Revolution and British Imperialism 1750-1850 (1/2 class read each)	In Class: Group Work & Discussion
11/30	Continental Industrialization I	
	Before Class: Cameron and Neal Ch 9, Crouzet – The Historiography of French Economic Growth in the Nineteenth Century (Economic History Review, May 2003) (1/2 class read each)	In Class: Group Work & Discussion

12/7	Overview of the 20 th century	
	Before Class: Cameron and Neal Ch 13	In Class: Lecture & Discussion Final Exam Posted on CU Learn
12/10	The World Wars and Economy	
	Before Class: Cameron and Neal Ch 14	In Class: Group Work & Discussion
12/12	Rebuilding After the Wars	
	Before Class: Cameron and Neal Ch 15	In Class: Lecture & Discussion
12/14	Catch Up and Conclusion	
	Before Class: Whatever isn't done	In Class: Discussion & Conclusion Final Due at end of class or by 4pm Monday December 17 via e-mail

Both the midterm and final exams are take-home format. The midterm will be due no later than 4pm Monday October 15th. The final will be due no later than 4pm Monday December 17th. I will accept either an e-mailed electronic copy (word or pdf format attachment) or a hard copy turned in to the Economics Department office in Economics 212.