

International Economics

Academic year 2020-2021

Economic History

EI095 - Printemps - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 08h15 - 10h00

Course Description

In this course we will explore the origins of economic growth and development of the West. After a brief methodological introduction^{x^a} we will explore the main channels proposed to explain development and growth: institutions, technological progress, the accumulation of human capital and biological evolution, contrasting the theory with historical facts.

The course will be based on selected readings from a textbook, journal articles and book chapters.

> PROFESSOR

[Nathan Sussman](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

Perquisites: Proficiency in economics is **preferable but not required**. In addition to reading, the course requires the ability to read quantitative evidence (tables and figures).

Reuirements

1. Students should attend and are expected to read ahead of class discussion.
2. In-class short assignments (**No** preparation needed, 5% of final course grade)
3. Students are required to submit a **short** term-paper. (5-8 pages, 60% of the final course grade).
4. Students will be assigned to prepare a short presentation to leadoff class discussion on selected topics. The outline of the presentation should be handed in before class. (35% of

final course grade).

5. No final exam

Class schedule and reading list

(Papers appear in the order of class discussion)

Legend: B- background material;

1. Introduction: Selected issues and methodologies in the modern economic history. February 23- March 2

Henrich, J., Boyd, R., Bowles, S., Camerer, C., Fehr, E., Gintis, H. and McElreath, R., (2001). In search of homo economicus: behavioral experiments in 15 small-scale societies. *American Economic Review*, 91(2), pp.73-78.

Levitt, S.D. and List, J.A., (2008). Homo economicus evolves. *Science*, 319(5865), pp.909-910.

Crafts, N. F. R. (1985), "Industrial Revolution in England and France: Some Thoughts on the Question 'Why Was England First?'" with a comment ("No Random Walk") by W. W. Rostow, and a reply ("Entrepreneurship and a Probabilistic View of the British Industrial Revolution") by Crafts, in Mokyr, J. (ed.), *The Economics of the Industrial Revolution*, pp. 119-136.

David, P. A. (1986), "Understanding the Economics of QWERTY: The Necessity of History," in Parker, W. N. (ed.), *Economic History and the Modern Economist*, pp. 30-49.

Krugman, P. (1991), *Geography and Trade*, pp. 35-38, 59-67.

B Cameron R. and Neal, L. (2003), *A Concise History of the World*, pp. 160-172.

2. Institutions in economics and economic history. March 9-March 16

B Eggertsson, T., (1990), *Economic Behavior and Institutions*, pp. 13-79.

B North, D. C., (1989), "Institutions and Economic Growth: An Historical Introduction," *World Development*, 17 (9), pp. 1319-1332

Greif A., (2000), "The fundamental problem of exchange: A research agenda in historical institutional analysis," *European review of Economic History*, 4 (3): pp. 251-284.

Carus A.W and Ogilvie S., (2014), "Institutions and Economic growth in historical perspective" in *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Vol 2 ch. 8. 49. pp. 407-18.

Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S. and Robinson, J., (2005). The rise of Europe: Atlantic trade, institutional change, and economic growth. *American economic review*, 95(3), pp.546-579.

3. The beginnings: Feudal institutions and their legacy. March 23

B Cameron R., and Neal, L. *A Concise Economic History of the World*, pp. 44-76.

B Cipolla, C.M, *Before the Industrial Revolution*, 3 rd edition, pp. 165-182.

Domar, E. D. (1970), "The Causes of Slavery or Serfdom: A Hypothesis," *Journal of Economic History*, 30 (1): pp. 18-32.

Beek Van der, K., (2010), Political Fragmentation and Investment Decisions: The Milling Industry in Feudal France (1150-1250 *The Economic History Review* 63 (3), pp. 664-687.

Glaeser, E., L. and Shleifer, A. (2002), "Legal Origins," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117 (4): pp. 1193-1210.

4. The power of money: the evolution of the monetary system. March 30 – April 13

Gandal, N. and Sussman N., (1997), "Asymmetric Information and commodity Money: Tickling the Tolerance in Medieval France," *Journal of Money Credit and Banking*, 29 (4) pt. 1. pp. 440-57.

Sussman, Nathan (1993), "Debasements, Royal Revenues, and Inflation in France During the Hundred Years' War, 1415-1422", *The Journal of Economic History*, 53 (1)

5. Economic and Institutional Developments in Early Modern Europe. April 13-April 20.

Cantoni D and N Yuchtman, (2014), "Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129 (2): pp. 823-887.

Dittmar J. E., (2011) "Information Technology and Economic Change: the Impact of the Printing Press" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, pp. 1133–1172.

de la Croix David, Matthias Doepke, Joel Mokyr (2018); Clans, Guilds, and Markets: Apprenticeship Institutions and Growth in the Preindustrial Economy, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 133, Issue 1, 1 February, pp. 1–70.

6. Explaining the Great Divergence. April 27- May 4.

Acemoglu, D., Johnston S., Robinson, J. A. (2002). "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117 (4): pp. 1231-94.

Andersen, T. B., Bentzen, J., Dalgaard, C.-J. and Sharp, P. (2017), Pre-reformation Roots of the Protestant Ethic. *Economic Journal*, 127: pp. 1756–1793

Beker S. O and Woessmann L., (2009) "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, pp. 531-596

Cantoni, D., Dittmar, J. and Yuchtman, N., (2018). Religious competition and reallocation: The political economy of secularization in the protestant reformation. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(4), pp.2037-2096.

Botticini, M. and Eckstein, Z. (2005), "Jewish Occupational Selection: Education, Restriction, or Minorities?" *Journal of Economic History* 65 (4): 922-948.

Nunn, N. (2008) The Long Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, pp. 139-176.

Gorodnichenko Yuriy and Gerard Roland (2017), "Culture, Institutions, and the Wealth of Nations." *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 99:3, pp. 402-416

7. Inequality in historical perspective. May 11 – May 18

Milanovic, B., (2018). Towards an explanation of inequality in premodern societies: the role of colonies, urbanization, and high population density. *The Economic History Review*, 71(4), pp.1029-1047.

Bengtsson, E. and Waldenström, D., (2018). Capital shares and income inequality: Evidence from the long run. *The Journal of Economic History*, 78(3), pp.712-743.

Atkinson, A.B., Piketty, T. and Saez, E., (2011). Top incomes in the long run of history. *Journal of economic literature*, 49(1), pp.3-71.

Whittle, J. and Hailwood, M., (2018). The gender division of labour in early modern England. *The Economic History Review*.

Alfani, G., (2010). Wealth inequalities and population dynamics in early modern northern Italy. *Journal of interdisciplinary history*, 40(4), pp.513-549.

8. Student presentations. May 25.

9. Economic genetics and the foundations of growth. June 1.

Alesina, A., Giuliano, P. and Nunn N., (2013), "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128 (2), pp. 469-530.

Ashraf, Q. and O. Galor (2013) "The 'Out of Africa' Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development" *American Economic Review*, 103. 1 pp. 1-46.

Galor, Oded, and Ömer Özak. 2016. "The Agricultural Origins of Time Preference." *American Economic Review*, 106(10): pp. 3064-3103.