

Economic History

Course title - Intitulé du cours	Economic History
Level / Semester - Niveau /semestre	M1 / S1
School - Composante	Ecole d'Economie de Toulouse
Teacher - Enseignant responsable	GAY VICTOR
Other teacher(s) - Autre(s) enseignant(s)	
Lecture Hours - Volume Horaire CM	15
TA Hours - Volume horaire TD	
TP Hours - Volume horaire TP	
Course Language - Langue du cours	Anglais
TA and/or TP Language - Langue des TD et/ou TP	Anglais

Teaching staff contacts - Coordonnées de l'équipe pédagogique :

E-mail: victor.gay@tse-fr.eu

Office: T.458

Weekly office hours: upon request, may be held virtually.

Course's Objectives - Objectifs du cours :

This objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the main methods and topics of the field of economic history. It will show how the combination of economic reasoning, empirical analysis, and knowledge of history can be illuminating to understand the roots and implications of critical junctures of the past, and in particular of modern economic growth.

Prerequisites - Pré requis :

None

Practical information about the sessions - Modalités pratiques de gestion du cours :

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Using laptops or tablets is allowed for taking notes only.

There will be 10 weekly sessions. Sessions are held on Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm in MB III, starting on 09/09/2020. The final examination will be held during the 10th session, on 25/11/2020.

Grading system - Modalités d'évaluation :

The grade of the course will consist of two elements:

- (1) In-class participation (20%).
- (2) A final essay (80%).

Bibliography/references - Bibliographie/références :

This list contains material complementary to the lectures—these are not required readings. It will be periodically updated as the course advances. Academic articles are available on Moodle.

- General references

Blum, Matthias and Christopher L. Colvin (Eds). 2018. *An Economist's Guide to Economic History*. Palgrave Studies in Economic History.

Steinsson, Jon. 2020. "How Did Growth Begin? The Industrial Revolution and its Antecedents." Working Paper.

- What is Economic History?

McCloskey, D.N. 1976. "Does the Past Have Useful Economics?" *Journal of Economic Literature*, 14(2), 434–461.

Arrow, Kenneth J. 1985. "Maine and Texas." *American Economic Review*, 75(2), 320–323.

Solow, Robert M. 1985. "Economic History and Economics." *American Economic Review*, 75(2), 328–331.

Abramitzky, Ran. 2015. "Economics and the Modern Economic Historian." *Journal of Economic History*, 75(4), 1240–1251.

Cantoni, Davide and Noam Yuchtman . 2020. "Historical Natural Experiments: Bridging Economics and Economic History." NBER Working Paper 26754.

- Modern Economic Growth in Historical Perspective

Acemoglu, Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2005. "Institutions as a Fundamental Cause of Long-Run Growth." In *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Volume 1A.

Court, Victor. 2019. "A Reassessment of the Great Divergence Debate: Towards a Reconciliation of Apparently Distinct Determinants." *European Review of Economic History*, forthcoming.

Nunn, Nathan. 2009. "The Importance of History for Economic Development." *Annual Review of Economics*, 1, 65–92.

Nunn, Nathan. 2020. "The Historical Roots of Economic Development." *Science*, 367(6485).

- A Culture of Growth

Becker, Sascha O. and Ludger Woessmann. 2009. "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 124(2), 531-596.

Mokyr, Joel. 2016. *A Culture of Growth: The Origins of the Modern Economy*. Princeton University Press.

- Directed Technical Change

Allen, Robert C. 2009. *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*. Cambridge University Press.

- The Fertility Transition

Guinnane, Timothy W. 2011. "The Historical Fertility Transition." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 49(3), 589–614.

- Pandemics in History

Alfani, Guido, and Tommy E. Murphy. 2017. "Plague and Lethal Epidemics in the Pre-Industrial World." *The Journal of Economic History*, 77(1), 314–343.

Arthi, Vellore, and John Parman. 2020. "Covid-19: The View from Historical Crises." Working Paper.

Beach, Brian, Karen Clay, and Martin H. Saavedra. 2020 "The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and Its Lessons for Covid-19." NBER Working Paper 27673.

Session planning - Planification des séances :

1. Introduction: What is Economic History? (S1–2)

Does the past have useful economics? This introduction provides an overview of the role of economic history. It discusses how economists have traditionally approached economic history, and how they approach it today. It also provides a short overview of the intellectual origins of the field and where it is headed.

2. Modern Economic Growth in Historical Perspective (S3)

When and where did modern economic growth begin? This session provides an overview of worldwide economic development in a long-run perspective, with a particular focus on the Industrial Revolution and the Great Divergence. It then discusses the main deep roots of the emergence of modern economic growth.

3. Institutions (S4–)

Institutions are often considered to have had the main role in the origins of modern economic growth. This session will discuss the role of institutions in the context of the Industrial Revolution, but also more broadly.

4. A Culture of Growth (S5)

This session explores the intellectual origins of the Industrial Revolution, and in particular the roles of the Enlightenment and of the printing press.

5. Directed Technological Change (S6)

Why did innovation explode in Britain in the 18th century? This session explores the roles of factor endowments in explaining directed technological change during the Industrial Revolution, and the role of technology more broadly.

6. The Fertility Transition (S7)

This session discusses the demographic aspect of modern economic growth: the historical fertility transition.

7. Pandemics in History (S8)

The pandemic of COVID–19 has sprung a renewed interest toward historical pandemics. This session discusses how past pandemics impacted individuals and societies over the long run, and which of their aspects can and cannot be a guide to understand the implications of the current crisis.

8. Review Session (S9)

This session will provide a review of the course and will be open to Q&A. It will also provide pointers for the final examination.

9. Final examination (S10)

Distance learning – Enseignement à distance :

Distance learning can be provided when necessary by implementing:

- Interactive virtual classrooms via Zoom
- Recorded lectures (videos)
- Chatrooms: Weekly office hours on Zoom upon request