

Economic History

Course title – Intitulé du cours	Economic History
Level / Semester – Niveau /semestre	M1
School – Composante	Ecole d'Economie de Toulouse
Teacher – Enseignant responsable	GAY Victor
Other teacher(s) – Autre(s) enseignant(s)	
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Other teacher(s) – Autre(s) enseignant(s)	
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	English
TA and/or TP Language – Langue des TD et/ou TP	English

Teaching staff contacts:

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Course Objectives:

The 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 historical and institutional settings can be illuminating to understand the roots and implications of critical junctures of the past, and in particular of modern economic growth.

Prerequisites:

None

Practical information about the sessions:

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 in MC 203 on Wednesdays from 18:30 to 19:50, from September 4 to November 20 (there will be no session on October 9 and October 30). The date of the final examination will be given at a later date.

Slides will be posted on Moodle before each session.

Grading system:

The grade of the course will consist in a final examination.

Session planning:

1. What is Economic History? (S1)

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.

2. Modern Economic Growth in Historical Perspective (S2–4)

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 roots of the emergence of modern economic growth.

3. Directed Technological Change (S5)

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.

4. Institutions (S6)

Institutions are often considered central to 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.

5. Culture (S7)

This session explores cultural and religious roots of modern economic growth, and in particular the roles of the Enlightenment movement, the printing press, and Protestantism.

6. Geography (S8)

Geography is another important factor to explain the emergence of modern economic growth, specifically in its interactions with political institutions.

7. Pollution (S9)

This session focuses on the implications of industrialization and urbanization on pollution and health during the Industrial Revolution.

8. Pandemics in Historical Perspectives (S10)

This session discusses how past pandemics impacted individuals and societies over the long run.

Bibliography/references:

This list contains material complementary to the lectures, with a * for the more important readings. These are not required readings. It will be periodically updated as the course advances. Academic articles are available on Moodle. Please let me know if you cannot find some material.

General references

Allen, Robert C. 2011. *Global Economic History. A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford University Press.

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

Bisin, Alberto and Federico Giovanni (Eds). 2021. *The Handbook of Historical Economics.* Elsevier. (Graduate level)

1. What is Economic History?

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

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

Cantoni, Davide and Noam Yuchtman. 2021. "Historical Natural Experiments: Bridging Economics and Economic History." In Bisin, Alberto and Federico Giovanni (Eds), *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, Chapter 8. Elsevier.

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

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

2. Modern Economic Growth in Historical Perspective

*Broadberry, Stephen. 2021. "The Industrial Revolution and the Great Divergence: Recent Findings from Historical National Accounting." In Bisin, Alberto and Federico Giovanni (Eds), *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, Chapter 24. Elsevier.

Allen, Robert C. 2009. "Why Was the Industrial Revolution British?" In *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*, 135–55. Cambridge University Press.

Broadberry, Stephen, Bruce M. S. Campbell, Alexander Klein, Mark Overton, and Bas Van Leeuwen. 2015. "Measuring Economic Growth." In *British Economic Growth, 1270–1870*, 1–244. Cambridge University Press.

Court, Victor. 2020. "A Reassessment of the Great Divergence Debate: Towards a Reconciliation of Apparently Distinct Determinants." *European Review of Economic History*, 24(4), 633–74.

De Jong, Herman J. and Nuno Palma. 2018. "Historical National Accounting." In Blum, Matthias and Christopher L. Colvin (Eds), *An Economist's Guide to Economic History.* Palgrave Studies in Economic History.

Goldstone, Jack. (2021). "Dating the Great Divergence." *Journal of Global History* 16(2), 266–85.

3. Directed Technical Change

*Allen, Robert C. 2011. "Why the Industrial Revolution was British: Commerce, Induced Invention, and the Scientific Revolution." *The Economic History Review*, 64(2), 357–84.

Allen, Robert C. 2020. "Spinning Their Wheels: A Reply to Jane Humphries and Benjamin Schneider." *The Economic History Review*, 73(4), 1128–36.

Humphries, Jane and Benjamin Schneider. 2019. "Spinning the Industrial Revolution." *The Economic History Review*, 72(1), 126–55.

Humphries, Jane and Benjamin Schneider. 2020. "Losing the Thread: A Response to Robert Allen." *The Economic History Review*, 73(4), 1137–52.

Maw, Peter, Peter Solar, Aidan Kane, and John S. Lyons. 2022. "After the Great Inventions: Technological Change in UK Cotton Spinning, 1780–1835." *The Economic History Review*, 75(1), 22–55.

4. Institutions

*Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development." *American Economic Review*, 91(5), 1369–401.

*North, Douglass C. and Barry R. Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *The Journal of Economic History*, 49(4), 803–32.

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. 2002. "Reversal of Fortune." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117(4), 1231–94.

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

Dincecco, Mark and Gabriel Katz. 2016. "State Capacity and Long-Run Economic Performance." *The Economic Journal*, 126, 189–218.

Ogilvie, Sheilagh and A.W. Carus. 2014. "Institutions and Economic Growth in Historical Perspective." In *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Volume 2A. Elsevier.

5. Culture

*Mokyr, Joel. 2021. "Attitudes, Aptitudes, and the Roots of the Great Enrichment." In Bisin, Alberto and Federico Giovanni (Eds), *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, Chapter 25. Elsevier.

Almelhem, Ali, Murat Iyigun, Austin Kennedy and Jared Rubin. 2023. "Enlightenment Ideals and Belief in Progress in the Run-up to the Industrial Revolution: A Textual Analysis." IZA DP 16674.

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), 531–96.

Dittmar, Jeremiah E. 2011. "Information Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of the Printing Press." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(3), 1133–72.

Kersting, Felix, Iris Wohnsiedler and Nikolaus Wolf. 2020. "Weber Revisited: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Nationalism." *The Journal of Economic History*, 80(3), 710–45.

6. Geography

*Spolaore, Enrico and Romain Wacziarg. 2013. "How Deep are the Roots of Economic Development?" *Journal of Economic Literature* 51(2), 325–69.

Allen, Robert C. 2009. "The Cheap Energy Economy" In *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*, 80–105. Cambridge University Press.

Fernández-Villaverde, Jesús, Mark Koyama, Youhong Lin, and Tuan-Hwee Sng. 2023. "The Fractured-Land Hypothesis", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(2), 1173–231.

7. Pollution

*Beach, Brian, and Walker Hanlon. 2018. "Coal Smoke and Mortality in an Early Industrial Economy." *Economic Journal*, 128, 2652–75.

Hanlon, Walker. 2020. "Coal Smoke, City Growth, and the Costs of the Industrial Revolution." *Economic Journal*, 462–88.

Davenport, Romola J. 2020. "Urbanization and Mortality in Britain, c. 1800–50" *The Economic History Review*, 73(2), 455–85.

8. Pandemics in Historical Perspectives

*Arthi, Velore, and John Parman. 2021. "Disease, Downturns, and Wellbeing: Economic History and the Long-Run Impacts of COVID-19." *Explorations in Economic History*, 79, 101381.

Beach, Brian, Karen Clay, and Martin Saavedra. 2022. "The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and Its Lessons for COVID-19." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 60(1), 41–84.

Alfani, Guido, and Tommy E. Murphy. 2017. "Plague and Lethal Epidemics in the Pre-Industrial World." *The Journal of Economic History*, 77(1), 314–43.

Almond, Douglas. 2006. "Is the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Over? Long-Term Effects of In Utero Influenza Exposure in the Post-1940 U.S. Population." *Journal of Political Economy*, 114(4), 672–712.

Beach, Brian, Ryan Brown, Joseph Ferrie, Martin Saavedra, and Duncan Thomas. 2022. "Reevaluating the Long-Term Impact of In Utero Exposure to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic." *Journal of Political Economy*, 130(7), 1963–90.

Chapelle, Guillaume. 2022. "The Medium-Term Impact of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions. The Case of the 1918 Influenza in US Cities." *Economic Policy*, 37(109), 43–81.

Clay, Karen, Joshua Lewis, and Edson Severnini. 2019. "What Explains Cross-City Variation in Mortality During the 1918 Influenza Pandemic? Evidence from 438 U.S. Cities." *Economics & Human Biology*, 35, 42–50.