

## International Economics Development Economics

Academic year 2019-2020

## Economic History

### EI095 - Printemps - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 10h15 - 12h00

## Course Description

In this course we will explore the origins of economic growth and development of the West. After a brief methodological introduction<sup>a</sup> 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](#)

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### > ASSISTANT

[Office hours](#)

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## Syllabus

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

### Requirements

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 18-25

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 3-March 10.

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 17

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 24 – March 31**

Gandal, N. and Sussman N., (1997), “Asymmetric Information and commodity Money: Ticking 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. March 31-April 7.**

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 21- April 28.**

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

#### **Inequality in historical perspective. May 5 – May 12**

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.

**7. Student presentations. May 19.**

**8. Economic genetics and the foundations of growth. May 26.**

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.