

Economic History

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| 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) | |
| Other teacher(s) – Autre(s) enseignant(s) | |
| Other teacher(s) – Autre(s) enseignant(s) | |
| 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:

GAY Victor. E-mail: victor.gay@tse-fr.eu. Office: T.458. Office hours: Upon request, may be held virtually.

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 MH 201 on Wednesdays from 18:30 to 19:50, from September 7 to November 23 (there will be no session on October 19 and November 2). The date of the final examination will be given at a later date.

Slides will be posted on Moodle after each session.

Each class will dedicate 1 hour to a lecture, and 15 minutes to Q&A. Q&A will be centred on topics of the day, which will be posted on Moodle a few days before class—you don't necessarily need to

prepare these topics in advance, but pay attention to them during class.

Grading system:

The grade of the course will consist of two elements:

- (1) In-class participation (15%).
- (2) A final essay (85%).

Session planning:

1. Introduction: 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 (S2–3)

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. Institutions and Modern Economic Growth (S4)

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.

4. Cultural and Religious Roots to Modern Economic Growth? (S5)

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.

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, for instance in the U.S.

6. Industrialization, Urbanization Pollution, and Health (S7–8)

This session focuses on the implications industrialization and urbanization on pollution and health, as well as migration responses of populations in Britain and in the US.

7. Pandemics in Historical Perspectives (S9)

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. Historical Data (S10)

This session discusses widely used dataset in economic history, and more broadly how to approach, find, and use historical data.

Final examination (TBA)

The final examination will consist in an argumentative essay answering a question chosen among two questions.

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**

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.

- **What is Economic History?**

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

*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.

*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.

Cioni, Martina, Federico Giovanni, and Michelangelo Vasta. 2022. "Persistence Studies: A New Kind of Economic History?" *Review of Regional Research*.

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).

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

- **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.

*Court, Victor. 2020. "A Reassessment of the Great Divergence Debate: Towards a Reconciliation

of Apparently Distinct Determinants.” *European Review of Economic History*, 24(4), 633–674.

*Crafts, Nicholas, and Pieter Woltjer. 2021. “Growth Accounting in Economic History: Findings, Lessons and New Directions.” *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 35(3), 670–96.

*Farris, Christopher J., Therese Anders, Jonathan N. Markowitz, and Miriam Barnum. “New Estimates of Over 500 Years of Historic GDP and Population Data. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 66(3), 553–591.

Bolt, Jutta, Robert Inklaar, Herman de Jong, and Jan Luiten van Zanden. 2018. “Rebasing ‘Maddison’: New Income Comparisons and the Shape of Long-Run Economic Development.” GGDC Research Memorandum 174.

Boucasse, Paul, Emi Nakamura, and Jon Steinsson. 2021. “When Did Growth begin? New Estimates of Productivity Growth in England From 1250 to 1870.” NBER Working Paper 28623.

Broadberry, Stephen, Bruce Campbell, Alexander Klein, Mark Overton, and Bas van Leeuwen. *British Economic Growth, 1270–1870*. Cambridge University Press.

Broadberry, Stephen, Johan Custodis, and Bishnupriya Gupta. 2015. “India and the Great Divergence: An Anglo-Indian Comparison of GDP per Capita, 1600–1871.” *Explorations in Economic History*, 55, 58–75.

Broadberry, Stephen, Hanhui Guan, and David Daokui Li. 2018. “China, Europe, and the Great Divergence: A Study in Historical National Accounting, 980–1850.” *The Journal of Economic History*, 78(4), 1–46.

Crafts, Nicholas. 2021. “The Sources of British Economic Growth since the Industrial Revolution: Not the Same Old Story.” *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 35(3), 697–709.

Feenstra, Robert, Robert Inklaar, and Marcel Timmer. 2015. “The Next Generation of the Penn World Tables.” *American Economic Review*, 105(10), 3150–82.

Hoffman, Philip T. 2020. “The Great Divergence: Why Britain Industrialised First.” *Australian Economic History Review*, 60(2), 126–47.

Hulten, Charles R. and Lenoard I. Nakamura. 2022. “Is GDP Becoming Obsolete? The “Beyond GDP” Debate.” NBER Working Paper 30196.

Jones, Charles and Peter Klenow. 2016. “Beyond GDP? Welfare across Countries and Time.” *American Economic Review*, 106(9), 2426–57.

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.

Maddison, Angus. 2010. “Statistics on World Population, GDP and Per Capita GDP, 1–2008 AD.” <http://www.ggdc.net/MADDISON/oriindex.htm>.

Solar, Peter M. 2021. “China, Europe, and the Great Divergence: Further Concerns about the Historical GDP Estimates for China”. EHES Working Paper 27.

- **Institutions and Modern Economic Growth**

*Acemoglu, Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2005. “Institutions as a Fundamental Cause of Long-

Run Growth." In *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Volume 1A.

*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.

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

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

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

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. 2012. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development." *American Economic Review*, 102(6), 3077-3110.

North, Douglass C. 1991. "Institutions." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 5(1), 97–112.

Seligson, Daniel and Anne E. C. McCants. 2021. "Coevolving Institutions and the Paradox of Informal Constraints." *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 17(3), 359–378.

- **Cultural and Religious Roots to Modern Economic Growth?**

*Becker, Sascha O., Jared Rubin, and Ludger Woessmann. 2021. "Religion in Economic History: A Survey." In Bisin, Alberto and Federico Giovanni (Eds), *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, Chapter 20. Elsevier.

*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.

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.

Binzel, Christine, Andreas Link, and Rajesh Ramachandran. 2021. "Vernacularization, Knowledge Creation, and Growth: Evidence from the Protestant Reformation." CEPR Working Paper.

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.

Rubin, Jared. 2014. "Printing and Protestants: An Empirical Test of the Role of Printing in the Reformation." *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 96(2), 270–86.

- **Directed Technical Change**

*Craft, Nicholas. 2021. "Understanding Productivity Growth in the Industrial Revolution." *The Economic History Review*, 74(2), 309–338.

*Hanlon, Walker W. 2015. "Necessity is the Mother of Invention: Input Supplies and Directed Technical Change." *Econometrica*, 83(1), 67–100.

*Humphries, Jane, and Benjamin Schneider. 2019. "Spinning the Industrial Revolution." *The*

Economic History Review, 72(1), 126–155.

Allen, Robert C. 2020. “Spinning Their Wheels: A Reply to Jane Humphries and Benjamin Schneider.” *The Economic History Review*, 73(4), 1128–1136.

Geloso, Vincent. 2018. “Were Wages That Low? Real Wages in the Strasbourg Region Before 1775.” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 48(4), 511–22.

Humphries, Jane, and Benjamin Schneider. 2020. “Losing the Thread: A Response to Robert Allen.” *The Economic History Review*, 73(4), 1137–1152.

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.

Nuvolari, Alessandro, Valetina Tartari, and Matteo Tranchero. 2021. “Patterns of Innovation during the Industrial Revolution: A Reappraisal Using a Composite Indicator of Patent Quality.” *Explorations in Economic History*, 82, 101419.

- **Industrialization, Urbanization, Pollution, and Health**

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

Chapman, Jonathan. 2022. “Interest Rates, Sanitation Infrastructure, and Mortality Decline in Nineteenth-Century England and Wales.” *The Journal of Economic History*, 82(1), 175–210.

Davenport, Romola J., Max Satchel, and Leigh M. W. Shaw-Taylor. 2019. “Cholera as a Sanitary Test of British Cities, 1831–1866” *The History of the Family*, 24(2), 404–438.

Davenport, Romola J. 2020. “Urbanization and Mortality in Britain, c. 1800–50” *The Economic History Review*, 73(2), 455–485.

Davenport, Romola J. 2021. “Mortality, Migration and Epidemiological Change in English Cities, 1600–1870.” *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 34, 37–49.

Gindelsky, Marina and Remi Jedwab. 2022. “Killer Cities and Industrious Cities? New Data and Evidence on 250 Years of Urban Growth.” *Journal of Economic Geography*.

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

Hanlon, Walker, Casper Worm Hansen, and Jake Kantor. 2021. “Temperature, Disease, and Death in London: Analyzing Weekly Data for the Century from 1866 to 1965.” *The Journal of Economic History*, 81(1), 40–80.

Sorio, Sabrina and Jo Buckberry. 2022. “The Impact of Industrialization on Malignant Neoplastic Disease of Bone in England: A Study of Medieval and Industrial Samples.” *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 38, 32–40.

Von Hinke, Stephanie, and Emil N. Sorensen. 2022. “The Long-Term Effects of Early-Life Pollution Exposure: Evidence from the London Smog.” Working Paper.

Hornbeck, Richard. 2020. “Dust Bowl Migrants: Identifying and Archetype.” NBER Working Paper 27656.

- **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.

*Jedwab, Remi, Noel D. Johnson, and Mark Koyama. 2022. "The Economic Impact of the Black Death." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 60(1), 132–178.

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).

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.

Rinz, Kevin. 2022. "Did Timing Matter? Life Cycle Differences in Effects of Exposure to the Great Recession." *Journal of Labor Economics*, 40(3).

- **Historical data**

*Giuliano, Paola and Andrea Matranga. 2021. "Historical Data: Where to Find Them, How to Use Them." In Bisin, Alberto and Federico Giovanni (Eds), *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, Chapter 4. Elsevier.

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

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

Geloso, Vincent J. 2018. "Economics, Economic History, and Historical Data." In Blum, Matthias and Christopher L. Colvin (Eds), *An Economist's Guide to Economic History*. Palgrave Studies in Economic History.

Inwood, Kris and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart. 2020. "Selection Bias and Social Science History". *Social Science history*, 44, 411–416.

Johnson, Noel D. 2018. "Geospatial Information Systems." In Blum, Matthias and Christopher L. Colvin (Eds), *An Economist's Guide to Economic History*. Palgrave Studies in Economic History.

Ruggles, Steve, Robert McCaa, Matthew Sobek, and Lara Clevland. 2015. "The IPUMS Collaboration: Integrating and Disseminating the World's Population Microdata." *Journal of Demographic Economics*, 81.

Distance learning:

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*