

ECON 4514: Economic History of Europe

Dr. Nicole V. Jobin

University of Colorado: Economics 117

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15

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Office: Sewall Hall, 42A (303-492-3555) or meeting in Econ 208A by appointment

Office Hours: 12:30-1:50 Tuesdays and by appointment

FYI: Sewall is a residence hall with offices for those of us who teach for the academic program there. Entry is by key card only – therefore you will need to come to the west side by the parking circle and call me on your cell phone to have me let you in. Alternatively, you may come up the main outside staircase (also on the west side by the parking circle) and use the call box or go in to the main office to the right and ask Martha Shernick to call for me to come up and meet you. Sewall has no elevator, so let me know if stairs are a problem and we can meet elsewhere if necessary.

Course Objectives

This course draws on economic reasoning to examine the transformation of European economies from a circumstance in which Malthusian population pressure on resources was the dominant historical force to one in which the growth of population and income per-capita has become the norm for industrialized countries. This transformation, covering the period from roughly 1200-1900, marks one of history's great changes yet the underlying causes of the process are only dimly understood. This course aims to provide both historical perspective and experience in the application of economic analysis to major issues. The topics of the course divide into three chronological and logical sections. The first examines the preconditions of European economic development, paying particular attention to the demographic, technological and institutional changes that supported growth. The second section focuses on the Industrial Revolution in England and Europe, asking what exactly it was, how it can be measured, and who benefited? The third examines the establishment, or not, of modern economic growth in other European economies, and brings us to some issues of 20th century developments. This course also enables us to explore the question "why are some so rich and some so poor?"

The examination of these themes will combine the historical literature with the theoretical constructs of economics. This course differs from other economics courses in that the issues come first, rather than the economics. Hopefully, this application of economic reasoning to issues that often are raised by non-economist

on and Larry Neal, *A Concise Economic History of the World*, 4th ed.

Absences due to Religious Observances: Campus policy recognizes the importance of religious observances and holidays to our students. Please inform me as soon as possible of any conflicts between class attendance, exams, etc. and your religious observances and we will seek to find an appropriate accommodation. (University policy: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

Discrimination and Harassment Policies: Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes he or she has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 (<http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>). The

Final Grades issued as follows: 98-100 A+, 93-97 A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, etc. Final grades do not include the A+ designation as it is not recognized by the University.

On most assignments I use letter grades as follows: A=95, A-=91, B+=88, B=85, B-=81, C+=78 etc.

Also, please do not ask me about grades via e-mail. According to FERPA, professors may not discuss your grades with anyone but you (or your parents if you are a minor). Since e-mail is not deemed a secure form of communication (I can't be sure you are the only one that will have access to the information I send) I cannot discuss grades via e-mail. So please don't ask.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Chesapeake Trade 1675-1775 (Journal of Economic History, March 1987)

Before Class: Group prepares for presentation

All class reads: Ch 8 from *A Splendid Exchange*
by Bernstein

In Class: Listen to group presentation,
discussion, have questions for group

Midterm questions posted on CU Learn

4/22	All class reads: Cameron and Neal Ch 14 (Ch 12 optional) Globalization and the Late 20th	discussion, ask group questions, film clip
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