

# **ECON 4514: Economic History of Europe**

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University of Colorado: Economics 117

M-F 12:45-2:20

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CU Learn Website: <http://culearn.colorado.edu>

Office: Meeting Place for Office Hours to be announced

Office Hours: After class by appointment M-Th

## **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. 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-economists will deepen your appreciation of the application of economics to the task of understanding the evolution of societies and the current global debate concerning north and south.

## **Texts**

- Rondo Cameron and Larry Neal, *A Concise Economic History of the World*, 4th ed.
- Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches*
- Several articles and chapters located on CU Learn or through Norlin Library

## **Accessing Electronic Copies of Readings:**

All of the reading material not found in your main textbooks can be accessed through the course CU Learn site (<https://culearn.colorado.edu> see more information below). You may also look for articles using the library's journal finder.

<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/research/ejournalfinder.htm>

Type in the name of the journal you are seeking, then select volume number etc.

You do not have to pay to see the article if you are viewing from on-campus, though you will have to pay in the labs to print. Alternatively – save it to a disk. If you connect from off-campus, you will need a VPN connection (<http://www.colorado.edu/its/vpn/>).

## **Class Policies**

Come to class on time with readings prepared. Turn off cell phones and beepers. This class requires a collaborative effort on behalf of all of the students and the instructor whether working in groups, listening to lectures, writing, or watching videos. I will give you my full attention, and I ask that you also give your attention to whoever is speaking and to whatever task in which we are engaged. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior may be grounds for loss of credit.

You are responsible for all material presented in class including announcements about course procedures and assignments. Attendance will be taken randomly. You may have 3 unexplained absences – I need no excuses. After that, each absence will cost you 3% of your final letter grade in the class. For full credit, all assignments must be turned in on time unless you provide documentation of illness or other certifiable emergencies.

All e-mail communication for the class is sent through the CU e-mail system. If you want to receive e-mail through Yahoo, G-mail, Comcast, etc, you are responsible for setting up your CU account to forward e-mail to your non-university account. I will use only the CU account.

: NO makeup examinations for missed exams and NO late papers will be accepted.

Read assignments before attending class. Come prepared for either lecture or discussion. Be an active listener and ask questions if you want more information or need clarification. If you do not help your group when doing group presentation, you will not receive credit.

Department policy regarding disabilities and religious holidays is given on the first page of the course site – please follow.

<http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses/fall05-courses-index.htm>.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)).

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aiding academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and

threatening behavior. In addition, obtaining material from “pre-written” sources available on the

with Prof. Jobin (this may only take a minute or two before or after class but feel free to come to office hours for more time). Three class periods following the presentation, each group will hand in a four - six page written assessment of the article. This assessment will place the article in context and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. You are expected to provide analysis of the article in this paper, not merely a summary – see assignment instructions on CU Learn.

## **Examinations**

There will be two examinations. Both the midterm and the final will be take-home examinations. The midterm examination will be posted on the course site (CU Learn) on Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> and will be due Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup>. The final will be posted by Monday August 4<sup>th</sup> and due no later than Friday August 8<sup>th</sup>. All examinations must be double spaced and typed, -10 (by ) laterr. All examWe. A8 594 774

## Schedule of Readings and Assignments

(Anything not from your textbooks should have a link on the CU Learn course site under “Readings” including the articles for group presentations – usually found in PDF format)

7/8	<b>Introduction – Economic History and Economic Development</b>	
	Before class: Cameron and Neal Ch 1	In class: Introduction, syllabus, groups, etc.
7/9	<b>Economic Development in Ancient Times</b>	
	Before class: Diamond, Ch 10 from <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> , Cameron and Neal Ch 2	In class: Lecture, film clip and discussion, explain practice lit review
7/10	<b>Economic Development in Medieval Europe</b>	
	Before class: Cosgel – <i>Risk Sharing in Medieval Agriculture</i> (Journal of European Economic History, Spring 1992, v. 21 no 1), Mokyr Ch 8 (Cameron and Neal Ch 3 optional)	In class: Lecture
7/11	<b>The Transition from Medieval to Early Modern</b>	
	Before class: Cameron and Neal Ch 5,	

7/23

**Agricultural Revolution**

Before class: Cameron and Neal p. 160-172, Allen - *Tracking the Agricultural Revolution in England* (Economic History Review, May 1999), Allen – *Growth of Labor Productivity in Early Modern English Agriculture* (Explorations in Economic History, April 1988)

In class: Midterm due, lecture

| 1750-1914 |