

EC 241: Economic History – Focus on Western Europe  
Prof. Walker Hanlon  
Fall 2015

**Details:**

Class: Monday, Wednesday 9:00-10:15, 9383 Bunche Hall

My email: whanlon@econ.ucla.edu

My office: 9357 Bunche Hall

Office hours: By appointment

**Course Overview:**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to recent research in economic history and to prepare students to undertake their own economics history research. The course will be organized around understanding the Industrial Revolution and the Great Divergence. While my focus will be on research in economic history, I will be particularly interested in how this research can inform current economic policy debates. The course is designed so that students with a particular interest in one topic area can focus their attention in that area, while still being exposed to a broader set of research. Classes will include both classic papers related to the topic we are studying as well as one or two new cutting-edge research papers related to the topic. The class will focus on developing some core skills: writing, presenting, proposing new research questions, and critiquing other's work.

**Class Setup**

The course lasts for 1:15. I will generally start class by introducing the topic we will discuss and going over one or two papers, which will normally take about 45 minutes. We will then generally have one or two student presentations of 10 minutes each. I will be tough on making sure the presentations fit in the allotted time (an important skill to learn). The remaining time will be used for a class discussion of the papers that were presented.

**Books**

The following book is recommended:

- Allen, Robert (2009). *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*.

### Course Requirements:

1. Presentation (20% of grade) – you are required to give one 10 minute presentation in class covering one of the required readings.
2. Referee Report or Second Presentation (20% of grade) – you are required to turn in one 3-5 page referee report critiquing one of the readings. The report cannot be on the same paper as the presentation. It must be completed and turned in before we discuss the paper in class. You can substitute a second presentation if you prefer.
3. Paper (30% of grade) – you must turn in a research paper which can be either (1) an overview and critique of research related to one important debate in economic history or (2) a proposal for an economic history research project. The paper should be roughly 5-8 pages. **DUE DATE: Dec. 20.**
4. Proposal of research ideas (10%) – I will ask you to write up short abstracts proposing two “big” research papers. The goal here is to step back from the literature and think about big ideas without being constrained by what is practical. One of these ideas should have a history component; the other can be about any topic. **DUE DATE: Nov. 1.**
5. Class participation, questions and comments (20% of grade) – you should attend class and participate actively in class discussions. It is particularly important that students be prepared to participate in the class discussions following each presentation. **Before each class, you have to email me 3 questions/comments about one of the papers being covered in class.** I will tell you which paper to focus your questions on in the preceding class. After each presentation, you are required to email me a set of comments for the speaker. I will put these together anonymously pass them on to help the presenter improve.

### Topics and Readings:

Note: Papers marked with a \* will be discussed by me. Papers marked with a \$ will be open for student presentations. I will assign 1-2 papers per class that are required reading.

Sept. 28: Introduction, Malthusian Economies

- \* Ashraf, Quamrul and Galor, Oded (2011). Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch. *American Economic Review*.
- \* Chaney and Hornbeck (2013). Economic Growth in the Malthusian Era: Evidence from the 1609 Spanish Expulsion of the Moriscos. *Working paper*.

**Sept. 30:** Malthusian Economies

- \* Voigtlander and Voth (2011). How the West 'Invented' Fertility Restriction. *American Economic Review*.
- \* Voigtlander and Voth (2013). The Three Horsemen of Growth: Plague, War and Urbanization in Early Modern Europe. *Review of Economic Studies*.
- Voigtlander and Voth (2009). Malthusian Dynamism and the Rise of Europe: Make War, Not Love. *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*.
- Clark, Gregory. *A Farewell to Alms*. Chapters 2-5. (I will review)

Oct. 5: Unified growth

- \* Galor and Weil (2000). Population, Technology, and Growth: From Malthusian Stagnation to the Demographic Transition and Beyond. *American Economic Review*.
- \$ Jones, Charles I. (2001). Was an Industrial Revolution Inevitable? Economic Growth over the Very Long Run. *Advances in Macroeconomics*.
- \$ Kremer, Michael (1993). Population Growth and Technological Change: One Million B.C. to 1990. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- Voigtlander and Voth (2006). Why England? Demographic Factors, Structural Change and Physical Capital Accumulation during the Industrial Revolution. *Journal of Economic Growth*.

Oct. 7: Introduction to the Industrial Revolution

- \* Allen, Robert (2009). *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*. Chapters 1-2.
- Crafts and Harley (1992). Output Growth and the British Industrial Revolution: A Restatement of the Crafts-Harley View. *Economic History Review*.
- \* Berg and Hudson (1992). Rehabilitating the Industrial Revolution. *Economic History Review*.
- \* DeVries, Jan (1994). The Industrial Revolution and the Industrious Revolution. *Journal of Economic History*.

- \$ Voth, Hans-Joachim (1998). Time and Work in Eighteenth-Century London. *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Temin, Peter (1997). Two Views of the British Industrial Revolution. *Journal of Economic History*.

Oct. 12: The Commercial Revolution and Human Capital Formation – Nico Voigtlander will guest lecture

- \* Squicciarrini and Voigtlander (2014). Human Capital and Industrialization: Evidence from the Age of Enlightenment. *QJE Forthcoming*
- \$ Cantoni and Yuchtman (2013) Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions and the Commercial Revolution. *Working paper*.
- \$ Dittmar, Jeremiah (2011). Information Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of the Printing Press. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- \$ Hornung, Erik (2014). Immigration and the Diffusion of Technology: The Huguenot Diaspora in Prussia. *American Economic Review*.

Oct. 14: Technology - Demand and supply side arguments

- \* Allen, Robert (2009). *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*. Chapter 6.
- \* Hanlon, W. Walker (2015). Necessity is the Mother of Invention: Input Supplies and Directed Technical Change. *Econometrica*.
- \$ Allen, Robert (2009). The Industrial Revolution in Miniature: The Spinning Jenny in Britain, France, and India. *The Journal of Economic History*
- Acemoglu, Daron (2002). Directed Technical Change. *Review of Economic Studies*.
- Kelly, M., Mokyr, J. and O Grada, C. (2013). Precocious Albion: a New Interpretation of the British Industrial Revolution. *Working Paper*.

Oct. 19: Institutions

- \* North, Douglas (1991). Institutions. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
- \* North and Weingast (1989). Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutional Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England. *The Journal of Economic History*.
- \$ Acemoglu, Cantoni, Johnson, Robinson (2011). The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution. *American Economic Review*.

Oct. 21: Technology and Institutions - IPRs

- \* Mokyr, Joel (2009). Intellectual Property Rights, the Industrial Revolution, and the Beginnings of Modern Economic Growth. *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings*.
- \* Boldrin and Levine (2010). *Against Intellectual Monopoly*. Chapter 1 (pages 1-4). Available at: <http://levine.sscnet.ucla.edu/papers/imbookfinal01.pdf>.
- \$ Moser, Petra (2005). How Do Patent Laws Influence Innovation? Evidence from Nineteenth-Century World's Fairs. *American Economic Review*.
- \$ Moser, Petra (2012). Innovation Without Patents - Evidence from the World Fairs. *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Oct. 26: Trade and Transportation - The Columbia Exchange

- \* Nunn and Qian (2010). The Colombian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
- \$ Nunn and Qian (2011). The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from a Historical Experiment. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- \$ Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson (2005). The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth. *American Economic Review*.
- \* Puga and Trefler (2012). International Trade and Institutional Change: Medieval Venice's Response to Globalization. Working Paper.

Oct. 28: Natural resources

- \* Pomeranz, Kenneth. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. (Not required reading, I will discuss)
- \* Fernihough and O'Rourke (2014). Coal and the European Industrial Revolution. *Working Paper*.
- \$ Clark and Jacks (2007). Coal and the Industrial Revolution, 1700-1869. *European Review of Economic History*.
- Michaels, Guy (2011). The Long Term Consequences of Resource-Based Specialization. *The Economic Journal*.

Nov. 2: Urbanization

- \*Davis and Weinstein (2002). Bones, Bombs and Break Points. *American Economic Review*.
- \*Hanlon (2014). Temporary Shocks and Persistent Effects in the Urban System: Evidence from British Cities after the U.S. Civil War. *Working Paper*.
- \$ Michaels and Rauch (2014). Resetting the Urban Network: 117-2012. *Working Paper*.
- \$ Bleakley and Linn (2012). Portage: Path Dependence and Increasing Returns in U.S. History. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- Bosker et al. (2008). Ports, Plagues, and Politics: Explaining Italian City Growth 1300-1861. *European Review of Economic History*.

Nov. 4: Health in cities

- \* Fogel (1994). Economic Growth, Population Theory, and Physiology: The Bearing of Long-Term Processes on the Making of Economic Policy. *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings*.
- \* Hanlon (2015). Endogenous City Disamenities: Lessons from Industrial Pollution in 19th Century Britain. *Working Paper*.
- \* Hanlon (2015). Pollution and Mortality in the 19th Century. *Working Paper*.

- \$ Kesztenbaum and Rosenthal (2011). The health costs of living in a city: The case of France at the end of the 19th century. *Explorations in Economic History*.
- \$ Kesztenbaum and Rosenthal (2012). The Democratization of Longevity: How the Poor became Old in Paris, 1870-1940. *Working Paper*.
- Cain and Hong (2009). Survival in 19th century cities: The larger the city, the smaller your chances. *Explorations in Economic History*.

#### Nov. 9: The Demographic Transition

- Dribe (2009) Demand and supply factors in the fertility transition: a county-level analysis of age-specific marital fertility in Sweden, 1880-1930. *European Review of Economic History*.
- Schultz (1985). Changing World Prices, Women's Wages, and the Fertility Transition: Sweden, 1860-1910. *Journal of Political Economy*.
- \$ Becker, Cinnirella and Woessman (2010). The trade-off between fertility and education: evidence from before the demographic transition. *Journal of Economic Growth*.
- Murphy, Thomas E. (2010). Old Habits Die Hard (Sometimes): What Can Department Heterogeneity Tell Us About the French Fertility Decline? *Working Paper*.

#### Nov. 11: No School – Veteran's Day

#### Nov. 16: Explaining the Great Divergence – Colonialism and Institutions I

- \* Engerman and Sokoloff (2002). Factor Endowments, Inequality, and Paths of Development Among New World Economies. NBER Working Paper. – See also the comments by Nathan Nunn (2007).
- \* Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson (2002). Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- \$ Dell, Melissa (2010). The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita. *Econometrica*.

Nov. 18: Explaining the Great Divergence – Colonialism and Institutions II

- \* Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson (2001). The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation. *American Economic Review*. – See also, comments by Albouy, David (2012) in the AER.
- \$ Banerjee and Iyer (2005). History, Institutions, and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India. *American Economic Review*.
- \$ Feyrer and Sacerdote (2009). Colonialism and Modern Income: Islands as Natural Experiments. *Review of Economics and Statistics*.
- La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes and Shleifer (2008). The Economic Consequences of Legal Origins. *Journal of Economic Literature*.

Nov. 23: Gains from Trade I

- \* Williamson, J. (2006). *Globalization and the Poor Periphery Before 1950*. Chapters 2. (I will review)
- \* Bernhofen and Brown (2005). An Empirical Assessment of the Comparative Advantage Gains from Trade: Evidence from Japan. *American Economic Review*. (see also Bernhofen and Brown 2004)
- \$ Donaldson, Dave (forthcoming). Railroads and the Raj: Estimating the Impact of Transportation Infrastructure. *American Economic Review*.

Nov. 25: Gains from Trade II

- \* Steinwender, Claudia (2014). Information Frictions and the Law of One Price: “When the States and the Kingdom became United. *Working Paper*.
- \$ Juhasz, Reka (2015). Temporary Protection and Technology Adoption: Evidence from the Napoleonic Blockade. *Working Paper*
- \$ Pascali, Luigi (2014). The Wind of Change: Maritime Technology, Trade and Economic Development. *Working Paper*.

Nov. 30: Trade and Deindustrialization

- \* Williamson, J. (2006). *Globalization and the Poor Periphery Before 1950*. Ch. 5.

- \* Clark, Gregory (1987). Why Isn't the Whole World Developed? Lessons from the Cotton Mills. *The Journal of Economic History*. (See Bloom, et al., Does Management Matter? Evidence From India, forthcoming in QJE for an updated look at this issue).
- \$ Krugman and Venables (1995). Globalization and the Inequality of Nations. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
- Matsuyama, Kiminori (1992). Agricultural Productivity, Comparative Advantage, and Economic Growth. *Journal of Economic Theory*.
- Basu and Weil (1998). Appropriate Technology and Growth. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. (Focus on intuition, the specifics of the theory are not required).
- Acemoglu and Zilibotti (2001). Productivity Differences. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. (Focus on intuition, the specifics of the theory are not required).

#### Dec. 2: Technology Flows and Why Britain Lost its Lead

- \* Rothbarth (1946). Causes of the Superior Efficiency of U.S.A. Industry as Compared with British Industry. *The Economic Journal*.
- \* Hannah (2008). Logistics, Market Size, and Giant Plants in the Early Twentieth Century: A Global View. *Journal of Economic History*.
- \$ Saxenhouse and Wright (2010). National Leadership and Competing Technological Paradigms: The Globalization of Cotton Spinning, 1878-1933. *Journal of Economic History*.
- \$ Comin and Hobijn (2004). Cross-country technology adoption: making the theories face the facts. *Journal of Monetary Economics*.
- Comin, Dmitriev, and Rossi-Hansberg (2012). The Spatial Diffusion of Technology. *Working Paper*.