ECONOMICS 210A – WORLD ECONOMIC HISTORY

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Office Hours: W, F 1:00-2:30

Description

Economics 210A covers World Economic History from the Stone Age to the twentieth century. The big issues we examine are the long persistence of the Malthusian economy to around 1800, the Industrial Revolution, and the subsequent Great Divergence in world incomes per capita.

Requirements

There will be a midterm in class, Mon. Nov 5, and a final exam, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 3:30-5:30p. The grade will be 30% for the midterm and 60% for the final, and 10% for class participation.

Readings

The background text for this course is my book, A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World (Princeton University Press, 2007). This is available from the bookstore, or more cheaply from Amazon. My web site has links to a bunch of reviews of the book, with some responses by me.

This book is written at a fairly intuitive level. The syllabus below thus lists more technical readings also on each topic. Required readings are indicated with a *. The material is available online though links on the syllabus to either JSTOR or to PDF versions of the articles.

The following abbreviations are used for journals, working paper series

AER - American Economic Review
EEH - Explorations in Economic History
HER - Economic History Review
EREH - European Review of Economic History
JEH - Journal of Economic History
JPE - Journal of Political Economy
QJE - Quarterly Journal of Economics
NBER - National Bureau of Economic Research (www.nber.org)
OUTLINE AND READINGS

I  The Malthusian Economy – the world till 1800

1. The Logic of the Malthusian Model

*FTA, Chapters 1-2.
*Symposium on A Farewell to Alms, European Review of Economic History, August 2008.
*Exchange with Bryan Caplan


2. Testing the Malthusian Model – Material Living Standards

*FTA, Chapter 3


3. Malthus versus "the Revolt of the Early Modernists": European growth 1200-1800

Broadberry et al., 2010. British Economic Growth, 1270-1870.”
4. Testing the Malthusian Model – Fertility and Mortality

*FTA, Chapters 4-5


5. Survival of the Richest

*FTA, Chapter 6


6. Economic Change Within the Malthusian Era

*FTA, Chapters 7

Joel Mokyr, The Lever of Riches (1990)


7. Institutions and Economic Growth

*FTA, Chapter 8.

8. The Emergence of Modern Man

FTA, Chapter 9

Crosby, Alfred W. *The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600.*
II The Industrial Revolution

1. Modern Economic Growth

*FTA, Chapter 10


2. The Transition Between Regimes - Theory

*FTA, Chapter 11


3. The Transition Between Regimes - Facts

*FTA, Chapter 12-13

4. The Social Consequences of the Industrial Revolution

*FTA, chapter 14


Goldin, Claudia and Larry Katz. 2008. The Race between Education and Technology


Clark, Gregory and Marianne Page. 2008. Welfare Reform, 1834


5. Social Mobility


III The Great Divergence

1. The Spread of the Industrial Revolution

*FTA, chapters 15-18

Haber, Stephen. 1989. *Industry and Underdevelopment: The Industrialization of Mexico, 1890-1940.* Chs 2,3


*Clark, Gregory. 2009. “Manufacturing Growth: What is the path to prosperity in Africa?"


* Peter Zeitz (2011) "Do Local Institutions Affect All Foreign Direct Investors in the Same Way? Evidence from the Interwar Chinese Textile Industry"

Allen, Robert C. 2011. “Technology and the great divergence: Global economic development since 1820” EEH.

