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ECN 110A, Spring 2014
Wellman 2, TTh 1:40-3:00

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ECN 110A - World Economic History – Pre-History to Industrial Revolution

DESCRIPTION

This course details the nature and development of economies from pre-history to the Industrial Revolution. It explains how this was dramatically different from modern economies. Finally it considers what caused the Industrial Revolution, why it was in Europe, and why it was delayed till 1800.

SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule for the quarter. The lectures from this class in Spring 2009 were videotaped. These lectures are at [iTunes University](#), and cover all the material for this quarter (except for one lecture)[go to iTunes University, and then just search under “Gregory Clark”]. Thus if you miss a class you can catch up online.

Date	Day in Week	Lecture at iTunes	Chapter
Apr 1	Tue	Introduction	1
Apr 3	Thur	Logic of Malthusian Model	2
Apr 8	Tue	Living Standards Before 1800	3
Apr 10	Thur	Fertility in the Pre-Industrial World	4
Apr 15	Tue	Mortality in the Pre-Industrial World	5
Apr 17	Thur	Survival of the Richest	6
Apr 22	Tue	Slow Technological Advance pre 1800	7
Apr 24	Thur	The Myth of Institutional Barriers	8
Apr 29	Tue	MIDTERM 1	
May 1	Thur	Social Mobility	-
May 6	Tue	The Emergence of Modern Man	9

Date	Day in Week	Lecture at iTunes	Chapter
May 8	Thur	Culture and Modern Growth	9
May 13	Tue	Modern Growth	10
May 15	Thur	Modern Growth	10
May 20	Tue	Midterm 2	
May 22	Thur	Why was the Industrial Revolution delayed 100,000 years?	11
May 27	Tue	Theories of the Industrial Revolution	11
May 29	Thur	The English Industrial Revolution	12
June 3	Tue	England and Theories of Growth	13
June 5	Thur	Social Consequences of the Industrial Revolution	14
June 7	Sat	Final, 8-10 (Sample Final)	-

READINGS

The text is my book, **A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World** (Princeton University Press, 2007). There will also be weekly supplementary readings available as links to the syllabus on my web site. Some will be on more technical material, such as mathematical models of growth. Others will be case studies illustrating points in the book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be two midterms and a final. Anyone registered for the course has to be available for the scheduled final. The grade for the class will be: Midterm 1 - 25%, Midterm 2 – 25%, Final - 50%. Each midterm score will only be counted if it improves your final grade. Thus if you have to miss a midterm for any reason that is not a problem. By Economics Department policy the class average GPA will be 2.7.

PROBLEM SETS

Problems on each chapter will be posted through the links below. The TAs will go over these questions as well as the supplementary material in the review sections.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Ch	Topic	Pages
1.	Introduction Jared Diamond – The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race	1-18
The Malthusian Trap: Economic Life to 1800		
2.	The Logic of the Malthusian Economy Questions on Chapter 2 Caplan Critiques the Malthusian Model Clark Responds Caplan Second Round Clark Second Round	19-39
3.	Material Living Standards Questions on Chapter 3 Bessino and Ma on Japan Allen (pp 1-6)	40-70
4.	Fertility Questions on Chapter 4	71-90
5.	Life Expectancy Questions of Chapter 5	91-111
6.	Malthus and Darwin: Survival of the Richest Questions of Chapter 6 Surnames, Genetic Selection and Social Mobility	112-132
7.	Technological Advance Growth Accounting	133-144
8.	Institutions Malawi vs Sweden North and Thomas North and Weingast	145-165
9.	The Emergence of Modern Man	166-192
The Industrial Revolution		
10.	Modern Growth: the Wealth of Nations Growth Accounting	193-207
11.	The Problem of the Industrial Revolution	208-229
12.	The English Industrial Revolution	230-258
13.	Why England? Why not China, Japan, or India?	259-271
14.	Social Consequences of the Industrial Revolution Questions on Chapter 14	272-302