

Introduction To Business, Economic, and Financial History

HIST3710401
ECON 0625-401

Place: TBC

Economic History plays a vibrant role today in informing the views of business leaders, policy makers, reformers and public intellectuals and the public conversation at large. The trend has accelerated since the Great Financial Crisis in 2008, when historians in the USA and elsewhere have rediscovered the import of economics and finance. This seminar provides students with the opportunity to acquire a command of the key methodological foundations of this increasingly important intellectual field while at the same time acquiring familiarity with its evolution (how it was built, how it thinks).

The seminar format will enable us to do this engagingly through extensive reading and discussion of both classic and modern texts. My goal is for students to acquire a knowledge of a number of fundamental texts and controversies (there is so much you can do in one semester) so that they can walk away from the course with a more educated understanding of the field, how it produces knowledge and what insights from rigorous economic history can it contribute. His way, they would be enabled to continue the exploration on their own.

Despite what they will tell you, economic history is diverse. Its built-in interdisciplinarity nurtures a variety of approaches, creating opportunities and challenges both. In the Seminar, I would like to share with you my enthusiasm for the promises but also tell you something about the challenges. We will do this by examining more specifically twelve important themes or debates and the course has a kind of built in progression, as it seeks to draw implications from these themes, which we will deepen subsequently.

As indicated, the goal of the seminar is to acquire skills through reading; Therefore, half of the grade will be based on the quality of seminar presentations (2) and of the contributions to class discussions. For the other half, students will be asked to write a paper. The theme for the paper is open. Students may want to explore in greater detail a theme they found interesting. They may want to write a review of a book they consider particularly important. Or they may want to do a small piece of historical research themselves, for instance using online resources such as periodicals which contain interesting stuff on the prices of some commodities, trade etc.

Introduction To Business, Economic, and Financial History: Syllabus

1. Introduction: "Capitalism" and "Markets"

Fernand Braudel, "The instruments of exchange," In *The Wheels of Commerce (Civilization and Capitalism: 15th-18th Century*, Vol. 2, p. 25-85, London: Fontana Press, 1985).

Joan Dejean, "Les Capitalistes: The first Capitalists and the Debt created by Haitian Slavery." forthcoming in *Capitalism, A Journal of History and Economics*, 2023.

2. Accounting for the Industrial Revolution:

William Petty, *Political Arithmetic*, 1672 [1690 edition]

C. Knick Harley, "British Industrialization Before 1841: Evidence of Slower Growth During the Industrial Revolution," *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 42, No. 2 (Jun., 1982), pp. 267-289.

N. F. R. Crafts and C. K. Harley, "Output Growth and the British Industrial Revolution: A Restatement of the Crafts-Harley View," *The Economic History Review*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (Nov., 1992), pp. 703-730.

3. The Problem with Historical Data

Deirdre McCloskey, "The Trouble with Mathematics and Statistics in Economics," *History of Economic Ideas*, XIII, 3: 85-102, 2005.

Vincent Bignon, et al. "Historical monetary and financial statistics for policymakers: towards a unified framework, BIS Working Paper 127, 2022.

4. American Slavery and the Cliometric Revolution

Bob Fogel and Stanley Engerman, "Prologue: Slavery and the Cliometric Revolution," pp. 3-12, "The Anatomy of Exploitation" in *Time on the Cross : the Economics of American Negro Slavery*, 1995? New York : Norton, pp. 107-157

Charles W. Calomiris and Jonathan Pritchett. "Betting on Secession: Quantifying Political Events Surrounding Slavery and the Civil War." *American Economic Review*, 106 (1), 2016: 1-23.

[Eric Hilt, "Revisiting Time on the Cross After 45 Years: The Slavery Debates and the New Economic History," *Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics*, Press Volume 1, Number 2, Spring 2020.]

5. Debating the Counterfactual.

D. N. McCloskey, "Did Victorian Britain Fail?," *The Economic History Review* Vol. 23, No. 3 (Dec., 1970), pp. 446-459.

N. F. R. Crafts, "Victorian Britain Did Fail," *The Economic History Review* , Nov., 1979, New Series, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Nov., 1979), pp. 533-537

6. Interlude: Rationality and the Economic Historian

Marvin Harris, "History and Significance of the Emic/Etic Distinction," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 5 (1976), pp. 329-350.

Marc Flandreau, "Pricing Moses Montefiore," *Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics*, Volume 1, Number 1, Fall 2019, pp. 166-230.

7. Institutions and Development

Douglass C. North, "Sources of Productivity Change in Ocean Shipping, 1600-1850," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 76, No. 5 (Sep. - Oct., 1968), pp. 953-970.

Douglass C. North, John Joseph Wallis & Barry R. Weingast, "A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History," NBER Working Paper 2006, w12795.

Bin Wong and Jean-Laurent Rosenthal "The Politics of Economic Change in China and Europe Jean-Laurent Rosenthal," in *Before and Beyond Divergence, The Politics of Economic Change in China and Europe*, Harvard University Press, 2011.

8. Foundations of Business History

Alfred Chandler, "The Coming of the Modern Corporation," Chapter 9 of *The Visible Hand*, the managerial revolution in American business, Harvard University Press, 1977, pp. 287-314.
<https://www-fulcrum-org.proxy.library.upenn.edu/concern/monographs/5t34sj64h>

Naomi R. Lamoreaux, Daniel M. G. Raff, Peter Temin, "Beyond Markets and Hierarchies: Toward a New Synthesis of American Business," *The American Historical Review*, Volume 108, Issue 2, April 2003, Pages 404–433.

[Background: R. H. Coase: "The Nature of the Firm" *Economica*, 4 (16), 1937: 386–405]

9. Methodological Limits of Institutionalism: The Debate on Guilds

Jeremy Edwards and Sheilagh Ogilvie. 2012. "Contract Enforcement, Institutions and Social Capital: The Maghribi Traders Reappraised." *The Economic History Review*. Vol. 65, No. 2 (MAY 2012), pp. 421-444.

Greif, Avner. 2012. "The Maghribi Traders: a Reappraisal?" *The Economic History Review*. Vol. 65, No. 2 (MAY 2012), pp. 445-469.

10. The World as System

Andre Gunder Frank and Barry K. Gills, "The five-thousand year world system in theory and praxis," p. 3-23, in *World System History: The Social Science of Long-Term Change*, eds. Robert. A Denemark, Jonathan Friedman, Barry K. Gills, George Modelski, Routledge, 2000.

Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Modern World-System as a Capitalist World-Economy Production, Surplus Value, and Polarization" in *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*, Duke University Press: 2004

11. Colonial Origins of Underdevelopment

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson, "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 117, No. 4 (Nov., 2002), pp. 1231-1294

Marc Flandreau et al., "Black man's burden, white man's welfare: control, devolution and development in the British Empire, 1880–1914," *European Review of Economic History*, Volume 14, Issue 1, April 2010, Pages 47–70.

12. Economic History and the Crisis of 2008

Barry Eichengreen and Jeffrey Sachs, 1985, "Exchange Rates and Economic Recovery in the 1930s," *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (Dec., 1985), pp. 925-946

Barry Eichengreen, "Economic History and Economic Policy," *The Journal of Economic History* Vol. 72, No. 2 (June 2012), pp. 289-307.

13. Coda: Bullshit Economic History

Voigtländer, N., and H. J. Voth. "Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, no. 3(2012): 1339-92.

S.N. Satyanath, Voigtländer, and H. J. Voth. "Bowling for Fascism: Social Capital and the Rise of the Nazi Party." *Journal of Political Economy* 125, no. 2(2017): 478-526.

Guinnane, Timothy W. & Hoffman, Philip, "Medieval Anti-Semitism, Weimar Social Capital, and the Rise of the Nazi Party: A Reconsideration," (2022). CESifo Working Paper No. 10095, <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4286968> Look at Appendix which is really important and has some of the best evidence for the BS in papers above
<https://hoffman.caltech.edu/work-in-progress-data/support-materials-for-papers>