

Provisional Syllabus: Will be updated for Fall 2024

HIST/LALS 2733-301

**TAKING OFF:
How (some) Economies Get Rich**

Prof. Melissa Teixeira

FALL 2023



**Mondays, 3.30pm-6.20pm
Room TBD**

OVERVIEW

What makes an economy grow? This question has been asked – and answered – many times over in the modern era. From Adam Smith’s classic *Wealth of Nations* (1776) to today’s political leaders, many have debated the ingredients necessary for a nation to prosper, or policies to promote growth. Some point to the need for fiscal responsibility, others an educated labor force, or to tariffs, natural resources, and the right laws. This seminar explores the deep history of this problem of economic growth. Students will read works by economists, social scientists, and historians that present different theories for why some nations develop faster than others. With case studies from across the globe, we will tackle topics like why Europe industrialized first, or the paradox of why the abundance of natural resources does not necessarily contribute to long-lasting economic development. This course also asks students to think critically about the metrics used to measure “success” and “failure” across nations, as well as how such comparisons between societies have been mobilized to legitimize imperial expansion, human exploitation, environmental destruction, or political repression. By discussing how governments, corporate interests, and individual actors have implemented strategies to increase national wealth, students will also be asked to grapple with some of the consequences of economic growth for the environment, human welfare, and social inequality.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Class Participation (25%)**
2. **Presentation on Reading, 10 minutes (15%)**
3. **Essay on Presentation Reading Review (15%)**
4. **Annotated Bibliography (15%)**
5. **Final Paper Outline, 1-2pp (10%)**
6. **Final Paper, 10pp (20%)**

OFFICE HOURS

Students are highly encouraged to attend office hours. Office hours are held in College Hall 206F on TBD, or email Prof. Teixeira to schedule an appointment.

REQUIRED READINGS

ALL required readings are on Canvas, either as PDFs, links to Ebooks in the Penn library system, or as links to web resources. To access readings, go to **Modules**. You will find readings linked to the relevant week. Note, sometimes links to Ebooks stop working. In this case, please search **Penn Libraries (library.upenn.edu)**.

For students who prefer to read printed books, certain books have also been placed on reserve in Van Pelt Library (Rosengarten Reserve). If you would like to borrow books from the library for more than a few hours, use EZBorrow or Borrow Direct.

In addition, you will find the following books available for purchase at Penn Bookstore. These are available in case you prefer to own your own copy or would like to read beyond the syllabus. It is **NOT** required that you purchase any books for this course.

Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* (New York, NY: Public Affairs, 2011).

Daren Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (New York, NY: Currency, 2012).

Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*, translated by Cedric Belfrage (New York, NY: Monthly Review Press, 1997 [1973]).

Paul Blustein, *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina* (New York, NY: Public Affairs, 2005).

DISABILITY POLICY

University of Pennsylvania, provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs.

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If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215.573.9235. The office is located in the Weingarten Learning Resources Center at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce St., Suite 300.

All services are confidential.

COVID PROTOCOLS

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a concerning and fluid public health emergency. Mask usage in the classroom is highly encouraged. This policy may be updated to require masking, including in accordance with University and City of Pennsylvania policies. If necessary, classes may temporarily be moved to Zoom. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, please refrain from attending class in person. Students will not be penalized for medical-related absences.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to be familiar with the Penn's Code of Academic Integrity. You are encouraged to discuss course materials with other students, but all submitted assignments should be original and individual work. Please note that an important element of academic integrity is fully and correctly citing the work of others. If you have any questions or concerns about how to properly acknowledge the ideas, words, and research of others, feel free to reach out to me directly.

WEEKLY READINGS

The readings are listed in the order in which they should be read. Please note that the syllabus may change, depending on the unique needs of this class. I will not add to your reading load, but I may make substitutions or deletions to accommodate the interests of this seminar. Any updates will be reflected on Canvas in Modules.

Week 1: Introduction: How do we discuss wealth and welfare?

Week 2: Who Takes Off First?

1. *Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776), Book 1, chs. 1-3, 10; Book 2, ch. 3, Book 4, ch. 2. **Ebook available.**
2. Emma Rothschild, "Adam Smith and the Invisible Hand," *The American Economic Review* 84:2 (1994): 319-322. **PDF on Canvas.**
3. Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress* (1990), introduction & chs. 5. **Ebook available.**
4. Kenneth Pomeranz, "Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization: Europe, China, and the Global Conjuncture," *American Historical Review* 107:2 (2000): 425-46. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 3: Capitalism and Slavery

1. *Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944), chs. 7-10. **PDF on Canvas.**
2. David Barnett, "Eighty-year-old study of British slave trade is back in the bestsellers list," *The Guardian* (2 March 2022). **Link on Canvas.**
Accessed <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/mar/02/capitalism-and-slavery-eric-williams-back-in-bestsellers-list>
3. Padraic X. Scanlan, *Slave Empire: How Slavery Built Modern Britain* (2020), conclusion. **PDF on Canvas.**
4. Nathan Nunn, "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123:1 (2008): 139-76. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 4: Imperialism and Exploits

1. J. A. Hobson, *Imperialism: A Study* (1902), chs. 4, 6, 7. **Ebook available.**
2. *Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1917), ch. 7. **PDF on Canvas.**
3. John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, "The Imperialism of Free Trade," *The Economic History Review* 6:1 (1953): 1-15. **PDF on Canvas.**
4. Steven C. Topik, *The Second Conquest of Latin America: Coffee, Henequen, and Oil during the Export Boom, 1850-1930* (1998), ch. 6. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 5: Crisis of Capitalism

1. * Benito Mussolini, *The Corporate State* (1933). **PDF on Canvas.**
2. Victoria De Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945* (1992), skim introduction & ch. 4. **Ebook available.**
3. *John M. Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money* (1936), preface, chs. 1, 3, 12. **Available HeinOnline.**
4. Joan Robinson, *Economics is a serious subject: The apologia of an economist to the mathematician, the scientist and the plain man* (1932). **PDF on Canvas.**
5. Daniel T. Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (1998), chs. 10-11. **Ebook available.**

Week 6: Research Consultation with Librarian Nicholas Okrent

Week 7: Speeding Up: Protectionism and Economic Nationalism

1. * Friedrich List, *The National System of Political Economy* (1841), Book 2, ch. XI, XV, XXVI. **Ebook available.**
2. * Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective," in *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: A Book of Essays*, (1962). **PDF on Canvas.**
3. Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery* (2004), ch. 3. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 8: Cold War and Development: Competing Ideologies

1. *Walt W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (1960), chs. 1-3, 6-7, 10. **PDF on Canvas.**
2. Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (2012), ch. 10. **PDF on Canvas.**
3. Jeremy Friedman, *Ripe for Revolution: Building Socialism in the Third World* (2021), introduction & ch. 2. **Ebook available.**

Week 9: Dependency and (Under)Development

1. Margarita Fajardo, *The World that Latin America Created: The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in the Development Era* (2022), introduction & ch. 5. **Ebook Available.**
2. * Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment," *Monthly Review* (1966). **PDF on Canvas.**
3. * Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America* (1971), introduction & chs. 2, 5. **Ebook available.**

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4. Larry Rohter, "Author Changes His Mind on '70s Manifesto," *The New York Times* (23 May 2014). Available <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/24/books/eduardo-galeano-disavows-his-book-the-open-veins.html>. **Link on Canvas.**
5. Catherine LeGrand, "Living in Macondo: Economy and Culture in a United Fruit Company Banana Enclave in Colombia," in *Close Encounters: Toward a New Cultural History of US-Latin American Relations*, ed. Gilbert Joseph (1998): 333-368. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 10: Paradox of Plenty: The Resource Curse

1. "The Dutch Disease," *The Economist* (26 November 1977): 82-83. **PDF on Canvas.**
2. Terry Lynn Karl, *The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States* (1997), chs. 1-2, 8.
3. * Timothy Mitchell, "Carbon Democracy," *Economy and Society* (2009), 38:3: 399-432. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 11: Neoliberalism

1. * Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (1944), chs. 3-7.
2. * Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962), ch. 1
3. Peter Evans and William Sewell Jr., "Neoliberalism: Policy Regimes, International Regimes, and Social Effects," in *Social Resilience in the Neoliberal Era*, eds. Peter Hall and Michèle Lamont (2013), pp. 35-68.
4. Vanessa Ogle, "Archipelago Capitalism: Tax Havens, Offshore Money, and the State, 1950s-1970s," *The American Historical Review* 122:5 (2017): 1431-1458. **PDF on Canvas.**

Week 12: Globalization: Winners and Losers

1. * Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (2012), introduction & chs. 7-11. **PDF on Canvas.**
2. * Paul Blustein, *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina* (2006), chs. 1, 5-6, 10. **Ebook available.**

Week 13: Institutions and Development

1. * Douglass C. North and Barry R. Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England," *The Journal of Economic History* 49:4 (1989): 803-832. **PDF on Canvas.**
2. * Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Power* (2012), chs. 1, 3-4. **PDF on Canvas.**
3. Timothy Mitchell, "The work of economics: how a discipline makes its world," *European Journal of Sociology*, vol. 46, no. 2 (2005): pp. 297-320. **PDF on Canvas.**

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Week 14: Development Economics and its Critics

1. * Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (1999), introduction & chs. 4, 7-8, 12. **PDF on Canvas.**
2. * Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, 2nd edition (2011), ch. 2. **Ebook available.**

Final Papers Due TBD

Please submit to Canvas and slip under Prof. Teixeira's Office Door, 206 F College Hall