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**Economics in Action: World Economic History**  
**Economics 4999-002**

**Spring 2007 Tuesday & Thursday 2-3:15 pm, GUGG 2.**

Professor Carol H. Shiue, email [shiue@colorado.edu](mailto:shiue@colorado.edu), Econ 206, TR 3:30-5 pm and by appt.

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## Course Outline and Reading List

### Introduction

This course provides an overview of the long-run evolution of the economic history of the world and the economic structure of these societies. As the potential scope of study is exceedingly broad, we will only cover select topics from the Medieval period to the present century. What happened to the world's standard of living and modes of economic production over this period, and why? We consider the pre-industrial economy, the turning point of modern growth and industrialization, and the economic developments since 1800.

This course has two goals. The first goal is to help students acquire some basic knowledge about world historical events. The second aim of the course is to offer students the opportunity to improve their skills in writing a research paper, and speaking and presenting in a group setting.

### Course Requirements

This is an upper-level undergraduate course (junior or senior standing) that meets the "critical thinking" requirement. The class will require a considerable amount of reading and writing from you. It differs from the typical CU course in that classes are capped at 25 students in order to allow for student participation during classroom time. Consequently, the course is held as a combination of lecture material, student presentations, and in-class discussion. There is also a substantial writing component to this class.

### Grading

Class participation, discussion assignments	30%
- class participation (15%)	
- discussion assignments (15%)	
Midterms	20%
Article presentation and discussion	20%
Research paper & presentation	30%
- paper (20%)	
- presentation (10%)	

### Prerequisites

Students are expected to be comfortable with the material from Intermediate Microeconomics



religious holidays is given on the first page of the course site

(12) Greif, Avner, (1989), "Reputation and Coalitions in Medieval Trade: Evidence on the Maghribi Traders" *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 49, No. 4 (Dec.), pp. 857-882

### **5. Agriculture and Forced labor**

(13) AWH, p. 122-123 and p. 126-127.

(14) O'Brien, Patrick (1982). "European Economic Development: The Contribution of the Periphery" *The Economic History Review* New Series, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Feb.), pp. 1-18

(15) Stanley Engerman and Kenneth Sokoloff (2000). "Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Path of Development in the New World" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14(3): 217-232.

(16) Domar, Evsey (1970), "The Causes of Slavery or Serfdom: A Hypothesis," *Economic History Review* 30:1 (March), pp. 18-32

### **Part II**

### **6. The British Empire**

(29) Wolcott, Susan and Gregory Clark (1999). "Why Nation's Fail: Managerial Decisions and Performance in Indian Cotton Textiles, 1890-1938." *Journal of Economic History*, June

(30) Wright, Gavin. (1990). "The Origins of American Industrial Success, 1879 to 1940" *American Economic Review* 651-68.

### **Part III**

#### **8. The Spread of Industrialization after the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

(31) AWH, p. 278-279.

(32) Baumol, William J. (1986). "Productivity Growth, Convergence, and Welfare: What the Long-Run Data Show" *American Economic Review* 76(5).

(33) Pritchett, Lant (1997). "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11(3): 3-17.

(34) Easterlin, Richard A. (2000). "Worldwide Standard of Living Since 1800," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14(1): 7-26.