The aim of this course is to study the causes and consequences of long-run economic growth in the context of European economic history. The emphasis of the course material is on Britain, but will include some comparative analysis of the relative performance of other world economies in the period leading up to and including the Industrial Revolution. The question at the core of this course is asking why it is that some countries, mostly in the West, have come to have such a high standard of living while others have lagged behind. What explains this Great Divergence? By the end of the course, students should expect to have some insight into the various views about this question. They should have also gained a greater knowledge of the history of British industrialization, and a deeper understanding of the application of economic theory and methodology to problems and debates in economic history.

Required Readings:
There is an extensive set of readings for this course. Students are expected to read and critically analyze these sources so that they have a full and detailed understanding of the theory, methodology and evidence the comprises each of the scholars’ arguments.


Reading package: Available on the VISTA course website, UBC Bookstore

Additional readings will be posted on the VISTA website through the term to complement the course material.

Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(UPDATE: Due December 3rd at noon in Buchanan Tower 1010)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (Online and in-class discussions)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The penalty for late submission of term papers is calculated by the formula: “The number of days late squared.”

PART I: INTRODUCTION
MOKYR, J. (1990) Introduction and Chapter 1
1. The Modern European Economy in a Global Context
Lecture notes

2. Approaches to Economic Growth and Development: Classical and Modern Views
Lecture Notes
MALTHUS, THOMAS (1798) Excerpts from An Essay on the Principles of Population (available online at www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop.html)
MARX, K. The Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848); The German Ideology (1845); Capital, Volume I (1867) (available online at www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/date/index.htm#1840).

PART II: ORIGINS OF THE GREAT DIVERGENCE: THE RISE OF NORTHERN EUROPE

When did Europe diverge from the rest of the world? What are the causes of the divergence in incomes? What explains the British Industrial Revolution?

Themes:
1. Markets: Institutions and Political Economy
2. Agriculture: Technology, Institutional Change and the Agricultural Revolution
3. Demography and Economic Growth: Breaking out of a Malthusian World?
4. Technological Change: Was Europe a more “creative society?”
5. Power, Class and the Distribution of Income

1. Markets, Institutions and Political Economy Before Industrialization

HAMILTON, Earl J. (1929) ‘American treasure and the rise of capitalism (1500-1700),’ Economica 9, no. 27 (1929) pp. 338-57. (VISTA)


PART III: INDUSTRIALIZATION: THE RISE OF BRITAIN AS THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL POWER

1. Agriculture, Institutions, and Industrialization

Lecture Notes


Further Reading:


3. Demographic Change and Industrialization
Lecture Notes

Further Reading:

4. Technical Change and Industrialization: What Made Europe Different?
Lecture Notes
MOKYR, J.

Further Reading:

8. What Explains British Industrialization?
Lecture Notes
(available online at www.eco.utexas.edu/facstaff/Cleaver/368lewistable.pdf)


Further Reading:


11. The Standard of Living Debate

Lecture Notes


Recommended:


Further Reading:

