

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**ECON-318.001  
ECONOMIC HISTORY**  
Spring 2010  
MTH 9:55 - 11:10

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Office Hours:  
MTh: 11:15 - 1:15

**SYLLABUS**

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Rondo Cameron, *A Concise Economic History of the World*, 4th Ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

E.L. Jones, *The European Miracle*, 3d ed. (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2003).

Douglass C. North, *Structure and Change in Economic History* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1981).

**Recommended:**

*Hammond Historical Atlas of the World*, Maplewood, N.J.: Hammond Inc., 2000.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) **Two Exams:** Midterm (March 4) and Final (April 29: 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.).
- 2) **A term paper:** Maximum of 6,000 words (approximately 20 pages, double spaced). Outline due Feb. 18; Final paper due April 8.
- 3) **Attendance:** You are expected to attend all of the classes during the course of the semester. You are expected to be in class on time. Absences will be excused for medical reasons only. You will not be penalized for one absence during the semester. However, each additional absence prior to the midterm will subtract two points from your midterm grade. After the midterm, each absence will subtract two points from your final examination score.

Note: No incompletes will be given for this course.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS** (A few additional articles may yet be added).

**I. The Idea of History and Approaches to Economic History**

Cameron, Ch. 1 (pp. 3-19).

Jones, Chs. 1, 2 (pp. 3-41).

North, Part I (pp. 3-68).

Jon D. Wisman, John Willoughby, and Larry Sawers, "The Return of Grand Theory in Economic History: North's Challenge to Marx," *Social Research*, 55 (4), Winter 1988, pp. 747-73.

**II. The Neolithic Revolution**

Cameron, Ch. 2 (pp. 20-29).

North, Chs. 7,8 (pp. 69-112).

Alfred Me'teaux, "The Revolution of The Ax," *Diogenes*, no. 25, Spring, 1959, pp. 29-40.

**III. Antiquity**

Cameron, Ch. 2 (pp. 29-43).

North, Ch. 9 (pp. 113-23).

Peter Temin, "The Economy of the Early Roman Empire," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20 (1), Winter 2006, 133-51.

William J. Baumol, "Entrepreneurship: Productive, Unproductive, and Destructive," *Journal of Political Economy*, 98

(5), 1990, 893-921.

#### IV. Feudalism

Cameron, Ch. 3.

Jones, Chs. 3, 4.

North, Ch. 10 (pp. 124-42).

Keith Thomas, "Work and Leisure in Pre-industrial Society," *Past and Present*, 29 (Dec. 1964), pp. 50-66.

#### V. Market Expansion and Crises

Cameron, Ch. 4, 5, 6.

Jones, Chs. 5-7.

North, Ch. 11 (pp. 143-57).

Alfred Kieser, "Organizational, Institutional, and Societal Evolution: Medieval Craft Guilds and the Genesis of Formal Organizations," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 34, 1989, 540-64.

Jon D. Wisman, "The Economic Causes of War and Peace," @ *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Vol. I, Oxford: Elsevier 2008: 622-34.

Chang, Ha-Joon. 2002. "Kicking Away the Ladder," @ *Challenge*, Sept/Oct, 63-97.

#### VI. The Industrial Revolution

Cameron, Chs. 7, 8, 9.

Nicholas Crafts, "Forging Ahead and Falling Behind: The Rise and Relative Decline of the First Industrial Nation," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12 (2), Spring 1998, 193-210.

North, Ch. 12 (158-70).

#### VII. Industrial Maturation

Cameron, Ch. 10.

North, Ch. 13 (171-86).

Jon D. Wisman, "Straightening Out The Backward-Bending Supply Curve of Labor: From Overt to Covert Compulsion and Beyond" *Review of Political Economy*, I (1), March 1989, pp. 94-112.

#### VIII. Imperialism

Cameron, Ch. 11, 12.

Douglas F. Dowd, "The State, Power and The Industrial Revolution, 1750-1914," Occasional Paper No. 4, The Union for Radical Political Economics, Spring, 1971. (44pp.).

#### IX. Toward Collapse and WW II

Cameron, Chs. 13, 14.

Jon D. Wisman and Aaron Pacitti, "U.S. Labor Reexamined, 1880-1930: Success, Ideology, and Reversal," @ in Dell P. Champlain and Janet T. Knoedler, eds. *The Institutionalist Tradition in Labor Economics*. Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2004: 88-102.

#### X. Since WW II

Cameron, Ch. 15.

Lloyd G. Reynolds, "The Spread of Economic Growth: 1850-1980," *Journal of Economic Literature*, XXI (3), Sept. 1983, 941-80.

#### XI. Another Brief Glance Beyond Europe

Jones, Chs. 8-12.

North, Ch. 14 (pp. 187-98).

Andrew Sharpe, "Angus Maddison Rewrites Economic History Again," @ *Challenge*, July-August 2002, 20-40.

#### XII. Final Reflections

Cameron, Ch. 16.

North, Ch. 15 (pp. 201-10).

Jon D. Wisman, "Is There a Significant Future for Workplace Democracy?" in Jon D. Wisman (ed.), *Worker Empowerment: The Struggle for Workplace Democracy*. New York: Bootstrap Press, 1991, 11-23.

William Foote Whyte, "Understanding the Mondragon Cooperative Complex," in Jon D. Wisman (ed.), *Worker Empowerment: The Struggle for Workplace Democracy*. New York: Bootstrap Press, 1991, 27-36.

Jon D. Wisman, "Christianity, John Paul II and the Future of Work," *International Journal of Social Economics*, 25 (11/12), 1998: 1658-71.

Jon D. Wisman and Bart Baker, "Increasing Inequality, Status Insecurity, Ideology, and the Financial Crisis of 2008" (on reserve).

P.S. A Major in Economics? See:

David Colander, "Economics Is the >Just Right= Liberal-Arts Major," @ *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 55 (26), March 2, 2009: 72.