Topics in Applied Economics VII: Economic History

2017-2018 Academic Year
Master of Research in Economics, Finance and Management

1. Description of the subject

- Topics in Applied Economics VII
- Code: 32366
- Total credits: 3 ECTS
- Workload: 75 hours
- Term: 3rd
- Type of subject: Optative
- Department of Economics and Business
- Teaching team: Claudia Rei (Vanderbilt University)
2. Teaching guide

**Introduction**

This course explores topics of interest to economic historians such as the long run international convergence/divergence pattern, institutions and property rights, the industrial revolution, population growth and migration, inequality, and cultural persistence. We focus mostly on the West and the specificities that allowed for its rise so to understand the region’s long-term economic success. To this end, we will first study historical changes in the medieval economy and then focus on the consequences of the industrial revolution.

Students will have the opportunity of getting familiar with recent (and not so recent but classic) economic history research, understanding the methodology used in the economic analysis, and applying the economics concepts learned in Micro and Macro Theory.

**Contents**

The reading list fully based on paper that can be accessed online through the university network.

Every paper denoted by * will be discussed by the instructor during the class.
Every paper denoted by # will be discussed in class by a student or a group of students.
Non-marked papers are listed for interested students who would like to know more on a given topic.
Every paper denoted by * or # can be covered in the final exam.

**THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC HISTORY**


**LONG-TERM CONVERGENCE/DIVERGENCE**


**EUROPEAN EXPANSION**


**INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS**


**INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**


**POPULATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**


**INEQUALITY AND LIVING STANDARDS**


CULTURAL PERSISTENCE AND HUMAN CAPITAL


Teaching methodology

Students should write a research proposal with a clear and well motivated research question, a concrete data plan (no need to get data but give a clear idea of the source and extraction plan), and a well defined methodology or framework. The deadline for the research proposal is the last day of classes.

Students should also select a paper to present in class from the ones marked with a # in the reading list.

Assessment

Grade points will be assigned as follows:
- Class presentation (20%)
- Final exam (40%)
- Research proposal (40%)
Grading system

0-10:

0-4.5  Fail
5-6    C
6.5-7.5 B
8-9    A
9.5-10 A+