Fall 2023 University of Virginia Mark Thomas

**ECON/HIST 4400: Topics in Economic History**

Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

mark.thomas@virginia.edu

This course will focus on key topics in our modern understanding of the process of economic growth. The role of technology, institutions, culture and ethnicity will be examined, using an array of theoretical and empirical perspectives. Much of the analysis will focus on European economic development, but we shall also examine issues in American, Latin American and African economic history. The purpose is not to provide a unified theory of growth and development but rather to point up the rich mosaic of complementary approaches to this complex and continuously evolving field of study.

Evaluation will be on the basis of classroom discussion (including two presentations of assigned readings), two short (5-6 page) papers, and an end of semester exam. Papers are due electronically before midnight on September 17 and November 12, with hard copies to be submitted at the beginning of class on September 18 and November 13 respectively.. The final exam will take place on December 9 at 2 p.m.

There will be no classes on October 2 (Fall break) or October 11.

**An introduction to the issues**:

8/28: Patterns of growth in the long-term:

G. Clark (2005), ‘The condition of the working class in England, 1209-2004,’ *Journal of Political Economy* 113: 1307-40.

R. C. Allen (2001), ‘The Great Divergence in European wages and prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War,’ *Explorations in Economic History* 38: 411-47.

S. Broadberry et al. (2012), ‘British Economic Growth, 1270-1870: an output-based approach,’ *Studies in Economics* 1203, School of Economics, University of Kent.

8/30: Some basic (and not so basic) models of growth:

R. Solow (1956), ‘A contribution to the theory of economic growth,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 70: 65-94.

W. A. Lewis (1954), ‘Economic development with unlimited supplies of labour,’ *Manchester School* 22: 211–29

P. Romer (1994), ‘The origins of endogenous growth,’ *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 8: 3-22.

S. Parente (2001), ‘The failure of endogenous growth,’ *Knowledge, Technology and Policy* 13: 49-58.

**Before the Industrial Revolution:**

9/4: Description

Carlo Cipolla (1994), *Before the Industrial Revolution: European Society and Economy, 1000-1700,* third edition (W. W. Norton), pp. 3-114.

Jan de Vries (2010), ‘The Limits of Globalization in the Early Modern World,’ *Economic History Review* 63: 710-33.

9/6: Analysis:

T. R. Malthus (1798), *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, Ch 1, 2.

G. Clark (2007), ‘The logic of the Malthusian economy,’ Ch 2 in Clark, *A Farewell to Alms* (Princeton, 2007).

M. Kelly and C. O’Grada (2012), ‘The preventative check in medieval and preindustrial England,’ *Journal of Economic History* 72: 1015-35.

N.Voigtländer and H. J. Voth (2013), ‘Gifts of Mars: Warfare and Europe’s early rise to riches,’ *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27: 165-86.

[N.Voigtländer and H. J. Voth (2013), ‘The three horsemen of riches: Plague, war, and urbanization in early modern Europe,’ *Review of Economic Studies* 80: 774-811.]

**Path dependency:**

9/11: Micro foundations:

P. A. David (1985), ‘Clio and the economics of qwerty,’ *American Economic Review* 75: 332–7.

S. J. Liebowitz and S. E. Margolis (1990), ‘The fable of the keys,’ *Journal of Law and*

*Economics* 33: 1–25.

W. B. Arthur (1989). ‘Competing technologies, increasing returns, and lock-in by historical events,’ *Economic Journal* 99: 116‑31.

9/13: Some empirical implications:

M. Botticini and Z. Eckstein (2006), ‘Path Dependence and Occupations,’ mimeo.

A. Alesina, P. Giuliano and N. Nunn (2013), ‘On the origins of gender roles: Women and the

plough,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128: 469-530.

D. A. Comin, W. Easterly and E. Gong (2010), ‘Was the wealth of nations determined in 1000 BC?’ *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2: 65–97.

**Geography:**

9/18: Space and place:

P. Krugman (1998), ‘What's new about the new economic geography?’ *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 14: 7-17.

H. Bleakley and J. Lin (2012), ‘Portage and path dependence,’ *Quarterly Journal of*

*Economics* 127: 587–644.

D. R. Davis and D. E. Weinstein (2002), ‘Bones, bombs, and break points: The geography of economic activity,’ *American Economic Review*, 92: 1269–89.

A. Klein and N. Crafts (2012), ‘Making sense of the manufacturing belt: determinants of U.S. industrial location, 1880–1920,’ *Journal of Economic Geography* 12: 775-807.

9/20: The (un?) importance of resources:

K. Pomeranz (2000), *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (Princeton University Press), Ch. 5, 6.

P. K. O’Brien (1982), ‘European Economic Development: The Contribution of the Periphery,’ *Economic History Review* 35: 1–18.

G.. Clark, K. H. O’Rourke, A.M. Taylor (2008), ‘Made in America? The new world, the old, and the Industrial Revolution,’ *American Economic Review* 98: 523-8.

**Institutions**:

9/25: in early modern Europe:

A. Greif (1992), ‘Institutions and international trade: Lessons from the commercial revolution,’ *American Economic Review*, 82:128–33.

A. Greif, P. Milgrom, and B. Weingast (1994), ‘Coordination, commitment, and enforcement: The case of the merchant guild,’ *Journal of Political Economy*, 102:745–66.

S. Ogilvie (2007), ‘Whatever is, is right? Economic institutions in pre-industrial Europe,’ *Economic History Review* 60: 649-84.

D. Acemoglu, S. Johnson, and J. A. Robinson (2005), ‘The rise of Europe: Atlantic trade, institutional change, and economic growth.’ *American Economic Review* 95: 546-79.

9/27: and beyond:

J. H. Coatsworth (2008), ‘Inequality, institutions and economic growth in Latin America,’ *Journal of Latin American Studies* 40: 545-69.

K. L. Sokoloff and S. L. Engerman (2000), ‘History lessons: Institutions, factor endowments, and paths of development in the New World,’ *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14: 217-32.

D. Acemoglu, S. Johnson and J. A. Robinson (2002), ‘Reversal of fortune: Geography and institutions in the making of the modern world income distribution,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117: 1231–94.

10/4: Slavery: a special case?

E. Domar (1970), ‘The causes of slavery or serfdom: a hypothesis,’ *Journal of Economic History* 30: 18-32.

N. Nunn (2008), ‘The long-term effects of Africa’s slave trades,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123: 139-76.

N. Nunn (2008), ‘Slavery, inequality, and economic development in the Americas: An examination of the Engerman-Sokoloff hypothesis,’ in E. Helpman (ed.), *Institutions and Economic Performance* (Harvard University Press), pp.148–80.

**Convergence**:

10/9: Micro foundations:

L. Neal (1985), ‘Integration of international capital markets: quantitative evidence from the 18th to the 20th centuries,’ *Journal of Economic History* 50: 219-26.

J. G. Williamson (1996), ‘Globalization, convergence, and history,’ *Journal of Economic History* 56: 277-306.

K. H. O'Rourke and R. Findlay (2003), ‘Commodity market integration, 1500-2000,’ in M. D. Bordo, A.M. Taylor, and J.G. Williamson (eds.), *Globalization in Historical Perspective* (University of Chicago Press), pp. 13-62.

10/16: Global implications:

K. H. O’Rourke (1997), ‘The European Grain Invasion, 1870–1913,’ *Journal of Economic History* 57: 775-801.

J. G. Williamson and K. H. O’Rourke (1999), *Globalization and History: The Evolution of a nineteenth-century Atlantic economy* (MIT Press), Chs. 6, 8, 9.

**Technology**:

10/18: The end of Malthus?

M. Kremer (1993), ‘Population growth and technological change: One million BC to 1990,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 108: 681–716.

G. D. Hansen and E. C. Prescott (2002), ‘Malthus to Solow,’ *American Economic Review* 92: 1205–17.

O. Galor and D. N. Weil (2000), ‘Population, technology, and growth: From Malthusian

stagnation to the demographic transition and beyond,’ *American Economic Review* 90: 806–28.

10/23: The Agricultural Revolution:

E. L. Jones (1965), ‘Agriculture and economic growth in England 1660-1750: Agricultural change,’ *Journal of Economic History* 25: 1-18.

N. Crafts (1985), ‘Income elasticities of demand and the release of labor by agriculture during the British Industrial Revolution: a further appraisal,’ in J. Mokyr, *The Economics of the Industrial Revolution*, second edition (Rowman and Allenheld), pp. 151-64.

R. Allen and C. O'Grada (1989), ‘On the road again with Arthur Young: English, Irish, and French Agriculture during the Industrial Revolution,’ *Journal of Economic History* 48: 93-116.

A. Olmsted and P. Rhode (2002), ‘The red queen and the hard reds,’ *Journal of Economic History* 62: 929-66.

10/25: The Industrial Revolution:

N. F. R. Crafts (1977), ‘Industrial Revolution in England and France: Some thoughts on the question “Why was England first?”’ in J. Mokyr (ed.), *Economics of the Industrial Revolution*, pp. 119-36 (includes debate between Crafts and Rostow).

J. Mokyr (1990), ‘The years of miracles: the Industrial Revolution, 1750-1830,’ in Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches* (Oxford University Press), pp. 81-112.

N. Crafts (1995), ‘Exogenous or endogenous growth? The Industrial Revolution reconsidered,’ *Journal of Economic History* 55: 745-72.

P. Romer (1996), ‘Why indeed in America? Theory, history and economic growth,’ *American Economic Review* 86: 202-6.

**Culture**:

10/30: Science and technology

L. Guiso, P. Sapienza, and L. Zingales (2006), ‘Does culture affect economic outcomes?’ *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20: 23-48.

J. Mokyr (2005), ‘The intellectual origins of modern economic growth,’ *Journal of Economic History* 65: 285-351.

R. C. Allen (2011), ‘Why the Industrial Revolution was British: Commerce, induced invention and the Scientific Revolution,’ *Economic History Review* 64: 357-84.

11/1: Religion

J. Delacroix and F. Nielsen (2001), ‘The beloved myth: Protestantism and the rise of industrial capitalism in nineteenth-century Europe,’ *Social Forces* 80: 509–553.

S. O. Becker and L. Woessmann (2009), ‘Was Weber wrong? A human capital theory of Protestant economic history,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124: 531-96.

D. Cantoni (2012), ‘Adopting a New Religion: The Case of Protestantism in 16th Century Germany,’ *Economic Journal* 122: 502–31.

D. Cantoni (2015), ‘The Economic effects of the Protestant reformation: Testing the Weber hypothesis in the German Lands,’ *Journal of the European Economic Association* 13: 561-98.

F. Valencia Caicedo (2019), ‘The Mission: human capital transmission, economic persistence, and culture in South America,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134: 507–556.

11/6: Institutions as carriers of culture:

S. R. Epstein, ‘Craft guilds, apprenticeships and technical change in pre-industrial Europe,’ *Journal of Economic History*, 58 (1998): 684-713.

S. Ogilvie (2014), ‘The economics of guilds,’ *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28: 169-92.

D. De la Croix, M. Doepke, and J. Mokyr (2018), ‘Clans, guilds, and markets: apprenticeship institutions and growth in the preindustrial economy,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133: 1–70.

L. Guiso, P. Sapienza, and L. Zingales (2004), ‘The role of social capital in financial development,’ *American Economic Review* 94: 526–56.

11/8: Individuals as carriers of culture

G. Tabellini (2010), ‘Culture and institutions: Economic development in the regions of Europe,’ *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 8: 677–716.

L. G. Sandberg (1979), ‘The case of the impoverished sophisticate: Human capital and Swedish economic growth before World War I,’ *Journal of Economic History* 39: 225–41.

B. A’Hearn, J. Baten, and D. Crayen (2009), ‘Quantifying quantitative literacy: Age heaping and the history of human capital,’ *Journal of Economic History* 69: 783–808.

M. Squicciarini and N. Voigtländer (2015), ‘Human Capital and Industrialization: Evidence from the Age of Enlightenment,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 30: 1825–1883.

**Ethnicity**:

11/13: Diversity and conflict:

Q. Ashraf and O. Galor (2013), ‘The “Out of Africa” hypothesis: human genetic diversity, and comparative economic development,’ *American Economic Review* 103: 1-46.

J. Guedes et al. (2013), ‘Is Poverty in Our Genes? A Critique of Ashraf and Galor,’ *Current Anthropology* 54: 71–79.

J. Esteban and D. Ray (2008), ‘On the salience of ethnic conflict,’ *American Economic Review* 98: 2185-202.

J. Montvalo and M. Reynal-Querol (2005), ‘Ethnic diversity and economic development,’ *Journal of Development Economics* 76: 293–323

11/15: The case of Africa:

W. Easterly and R. Levine (1997), ‘Africa's growth tragedy: Policies and ethnic divisions,’ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112: 1203-50.

W. Whatley and R. Gillezeau (2011), ‘The impact of the transatlantic slave trade on ethnic stratification in Africa,’ *American Economic Review* 101: 571–76.

S. Michalopoulos and E. Papaioannou (2013), ‘Pre-colonial ethnic institutions and contemporary African development,’ *Econometrica* 81: 113–52.

**Colonialism**:

11/20: The Empire effect:

A. W. Flux (1899), ‘The Flag and Trade: A summary review of the trade of the chief colonial empires,’ *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* 62: 489-533 (skim)

K. J. Mitchener and M.D. Weidenmier (2008), ‘Trade and empire,’ *Economic Journal* 118: 1805–34.

N. Ferguson and M. Schularick (2006),’The Empire Effect: The determinants of country risk in the first age of globalization, 1880–1913,’ *Journal of Economic History* 66: 283-312.

11/27: The Colonial effect:

D. Acemoglu, S. Johnson, and J. A. Robinson (2001), ‘The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation,’ *American Economic Review* 91: 1369–401.

A. Banerjee and L. Iyer (2005), ‘History, institutions, and economic performance: the legacy of colonial land tenure systems in India,’ *American Economic Review* 95: 1190-213.

M. Bruhn and F. A. Gallego (2012), ‘Good, bad and ugly colonial activities: Do they matter for economic development?’ *Review of Economics and Statistics* 94: 433-61.

L. Iyer (2010), ‘Direct versus indirect colonial rule in India: Long-term consequences,’ *Review of Economics and Statistics* 92: 693-713.

**Globalization and crisis**

11/29: Financial

L. Neal and M. D. Weidenmier (2007), ‘Crises in the global economy from tulips to today,’ in M. Bordo, A. M. Taylor and J. G. Williamson (eds.), *Globalization in Historical Perspective* (University of Chicago Press), pp. 473-514.

M. Bordo, B. Eichengreen, D, Klingebiel, and M. S. Martinez-Peria (2001), ‘Is the crisis problem growing more severe?” *Economic Policy* 16: 53-82.

M. D. Bordo and J. Landon-Lane (2013), ‘The banking panics in the United States in the 1930s: Some lessons for today,’ in N. Crafts and P. Fearon (eds.), *The Great Depression of the 1930s* (Oxford University Press), pp. 188-211.

12/4: A case-study of financial crisis

G. della Paolera and A. M. Taylor (2001), ‘A monetary and financial wreck: the Baring crisis, 1890-91’, in della Paolera and Taylor (eds.), *Straining at the Anchor: The Argentine Currency Board and the Search for Macroeconomic Stability, 1880-1935* (University of Chicago Press), pp. 67-79.

B. Eichengreen (1999), ‘The Baring Crisis in a Mexican Mirror,’ *International Political Science Review* 20: 249-70.

K. J. Mitchener and M. D. Weidenmier (2008), ‘The Baring Crisis and the Great Latin American Meltdown of the 1890s,’ *Journal of Economic History* 68: 462-500.