Syllabus for Econ 164aw: The Industrial Revolution in Western Europe
Winter 2021
TTH TuTh 12:30-1:50p, Virtual

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00, Thursdays 2-3:00

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Course Goals
In this course you will use your economic training to examine the economics of the Industrial Revolution with an emphasis on Great Britain. The course will cover various topics including demography, institutions, technological innovation, finance, and international trade.

You should take this course if:
1) You are interested in evaluating economic arguments with quantitative tools, like graphs plotting differential trends and tables summarizing differences in means or regression coefficients.
2) You have some interest in history, especially European or global history.
3) You want to learn how to write about economic ideas and arguments. If you only want to fulfill upper div. writing req., perhaps consider another course.

Formally, this course has three goals. First, I want you to improve your writing and communication skills. They yield high rewards in the labor market. Second, I want you to learn how economists use theory and data to answer ‘real-world’ questions, like how to economies develop and evolve? Third, I want you to learn about economic history. Britain was the leader of industrialization and is one of the largest economies today. It is useful to understand what happened there. It is also taken as the benchmark for changes that occurred elsewhere like the United States and Asian economies.

Materials
Most of the course content comes from research papers published in journals or working paper series. You will be asked to read and evaluate research papers. There are two writing texts that you might find useful. Lee Cuba, A short Guide to Writing about the Social Science, and Howard Becker, Writing for Social Scientists. I have copies of both if you want to borrow them. They are also available on Amazon.

Prerequisites
This course is ideally suited for economics majors in their senior year. To succeed you should have taken intermediate theory and an introduction to Statistics. Here is a quick test: If you don’t know how to read a regression table, then you will have trouble succeeding in this course. BTW some of you just need a little reminding to jog your memory!

Grading
Your grade will be based on (1) four writing assignments analyzing a topic on the reading list, (2) four discussions in class of the papers on the reading list, (3) a thesis statement for your literature review, (4) a first draft of your literature review, (5) and a final draft of your literature review. The course has a total of 100 points. The writing assignments will count for a total of 32 points (8 points each). Attendance at discussion counts for a total of 4 points (1 point each). If you miss your presentation you will get zero
points. The thesis statement will be worth 4 points. The first draft will count for 10 points if it is turned in on the due date. The literature review will count for 50 points.

The grading scale will be 90-100 for an A, 80-89 for a B, 70-79 for a C, 60-69 for a D, and below 60 will be an F.

Writing Assignments
Students must complete four writing assignments on two papers from the reading list. Students are assigned topics papers from the reading list. Assignments will be made based on alphabetical order of your last name at the end of the first week. The writing assignment is a mini literature review similar to what you will write at the end of the quarter.

Here is the grading rubric for the writing assignments:

Thesis:
  Student has a thesis statement about what is ‘true’ based on the two assigned papers. (2 points)

Discussion of Research papers:
  There is analysis of both assigned papers (1 point)
  The discussion of the papers is meaningful to the advancement of the thesis (1 point)
  There is critical analysis of the papers (1 point)

Writing style:
  There are no grammatical errors, incomplete sentences, or misspellings (1 point)
  The paper flows from one topic to the next and is logical (1 point)

Page Minimum
  Minus one point for every page short of 5 pages (1 point)

This exercise is designed to help you critically analyze research papers in economic history. You will use these critical analysis skills in writing your literature review. Each writing assignment must be 5 pages (doubled-spaced, 12-inch font, one inch margins). An email of your writing assignment must be sent to the TA by the beginning of class on the day we discuss the topic (see the course schedule below). You can use Webvpn (UCI library) to access restricted papers. You do not need to paste graphs and tables in your paper, save space for your ideas.

You can work with others to understand the paper better. Working well in teams is a key part of the professional world. But you must write on your own. It will be obvious to the grader that you are copying someone’s work.

Discussions Presentations
When you are assigned two papers, each student is required to discuss their writing assignment in the virtual class via zoom. For example, I will ask you about your thesis and how it was developed using the papers. We will learn from each other. Note during the presentations, we will project the paper on the screen so that you can reference equations, tables, and graphs. If you do not show up for your presentation you will lose 1 point.

Thesis Statement
On Friday Feb. 26 by 5pm PST the thesis statement is due and must be sent to the TA by email (Paul Lowood plowood@uci.edu). Each student needs to turn in a one-page summary describing their thesis
statement and briefly discussing some important works in the literature on this topic. The thesis statement is worth 4 points. Some examples of thesis statements are:

1. Enclosures are thought to have contributed to productivity growth in agriculture, but the evidence shows that in Britain enclosures had a minimal impact.

2. Banks are thought to have spurred industrialization. The evidence generally confirms this view in Britain during its industrialization.

First Draft of Literature Review
On Mar. 5 by 5 pm PST the first draft of the literature review is due and must be emailed to the TA (Paul Lowood plowood@uci.edu). At this stage you are expected to have a thesis statement and a beginning discussion of how papers in the literature address your thesis statement.

Literature Review
The final copy literature review should be sent by email to the TA (Paul Lowood plowood@uci.edu) on Thursday March 18 by 5pm. For every weekday that you do not turn in your paper you will lose 5 points (i.e. after Thursday mar. 19 and before 5 P.M. Friday March 20 -5 points, before 5 P.M. Monday March. 21 -10 points, etc.).

The literature review is the most important part of the course. It should be 15 pages in length (double space, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). It must contain an introduction, body paragraphs, a conclusion, and a list of references. Most importantly, you must develop a thesis statement, which identifies a topic and makes a statement about some finding in the literature.

You will need to evaluate several papers that address a topic in the literature. It usually works best to study one of the topics discussed on the reading list. In doing so, you will need to do some research and draw on papers not on the reading list. You should consult the bibliographies of the papers on the reading list, or consult the other papers of the authors on the reading list. You can also search google scholar for related papers on a topic. Try searching Enclosure Britain Agriculture and you will find many entries.

Here is the grading rubric for the literature review:

Thesis:
- The thesis is clear (2 points)
- The thesis is well defended in the paper (4 points)
- The paper maintains a focus on the thesis (2 points)

Research:
- Sufficient research been done (12 points)
- The literature discussed is meaningful to the advancement of the paper's thesis (6 points)
- Meaningful connections being made between the presented papers (6 points)
- There is meaningful and effective critical analysis of the papers (6 points)

Writing style:
- The writing is clear (2 points)
- The paper flows from one topic to the next and is logical (4 points)

Page Minimum (5 points)
- Minus one point for every page short of 15 pages
Minus one point for exaggerated margins

Bibliography (1 point). Use MLA, APA, or Chicago style for references. Just be consistent.

**In class time**
For weeks 1 I will give you the necessary background and discuss writing. For weeks 2 through 8 our meetings are like a seminar focusing on a topic. I will give some lecture and groups of students will discuss the assigned papers. The students will turn in their writing assignments on the day of our meeting (see the expectations above). Each week is a module in canvas.

**Course Schedule**

You can use Webvpn (UCI library) to access restricted papers

**Tuesday, Jan. 5:** Discussion of Syllabus, introduction to British economic history

**Thursday, Jan 7:** Writing summaries and literature reviews on research in economic history


We will discuss how to summarize and critically evaluate two papers using the following two papers as examples. They focus on whether the Glorious Revolution was a watershed moment.


**Week 2**

**Tuesday, Jan 12: Living standards and the early modern origins of the industrial revolution**


*Additional reading:*


Thursday, Jan 14: Malthusian mechanisms: viewed through social status and gender


*Additional reading:*


Week 3

Tuesday, Jan 19: Human capital formation through apprenticeships


*Additional reading:*


**Thursday Jan. 21: Explaining technological leadership**


*Additional reading*


**Week 4**

**Tuesday Jan. 26: Collective invention and the patent system**


*Additional reading*


**Thursday, Jan. 28: Innovation in the transport sector**


*Additional reading*


Week 5

**Tuesday, Feb 2: coal and location of industry**


*Additional reading:*


**Thursday Feb 4: Railways and their impact**


Additional reading


**Week 6**

**Tuesday Feb 9: Mobility and Migration**


Additional reading:


**Thursday Feb 11: The state, war, and financial markets**


*Additional reading:*


**Week 7**

**Tuesday Feb 16: The state and development of property rights**


*Additional reading:*


**Thursday Feb. 18: Slavery and connections with the Atlantic economy**


Additional reading:


**Week 8**

**Tuesday Feb. 23: Globalization and free trade**


Additional reading:


**Thursday Feb. 25: Trade with Asia**


Additional reading


**By Friday Feb 26 1 at 5pm PST. The thesis statement needs to be sent by email to TA.**

Tuesday March 2 Independent work on Lit. Review. Office Visits with TA available during class hours

Thursday March 4 Independent work on Lit. Review. Office Visits with TA available during class hours

**By Friday March 5 at 5pm PST. First Draft of Lit Review Due and needs to be sent by email to TA.**

Tuesday March 9: Independent work on Lit. Review. Office Visits available during class hours.

Thursday March 11. First Draft Returned with comments. Office Visits available during class hours.

**Finals Week: Literature Review Due Thursday March 18 by 5pm**