

Economic History: History of Globalisation, Development & Global Economic Integration

UGRA_004842

Departments	Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	2
Teacher responsible	Garcia Fuente Xabier - xabier.garcia1@esade.edu

Course Goals

The course introduces five key periods or events in Economic History: Malthusian dynamics in pre-industrial societies, the emergence of the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain, the First Globalization, the Great Depression in the USA, and the present time, in which some middle-income countries (China in particular) are converging with richer ones.

Each unit is explained with the aid of a basic economic model, allowing us to establish links with pressing current debates. For instance, was the political response to the Great Recession in 2008 better than after the Great Depression in the 1930s? How have ICTs contributed to the convergence of middle-income countries? Is the integration of world markets in danger? Why do developing countries often fail to introduce the newest technologies?

After completing the course, students will have acquired a basic understanding of these topics, as well as the reference frameworks and analytical tools necessary to explore them further. Regarding more general skills, students will improve their ability to read and process complex information about economic development, analyze socio-economic phenomena as a dynamic, multi-faceted process, and provide informed arguments about many economic topics.

Prerequisites

Those established by the dregree office of the Business School.

Teaching methodology

The course consists of six sessions. The first five are dedicated to the topics established in the Syllabus. Each lecture introduces a crucial Economic History episode and links it to current socioeconomic events. After sessions 1 to 5, there will be a brief multiple-choice quiz in Moodle about the contents of the previous class or some related article by a leading scholar. In class, time will be set aside to go through the quiz solutions and there will be room for debating class contents and suggested readings. In the last lecture, students will have a written examination about the main contents and readings assigned in the course.

Description

Course contribution to program

Most social and economic processes cannot be studied under laboratory conditions, so we must often turn to history to make sense of current events. Why are some countries richer than others? How has China closed the gap with the richer economies in the last decades? And why are other developing

countries not able to catch-up? Is the integration of world markets good for growth? Does it benefit everyone equally? What drives globalization? Is it slowing down? How do we explain innovation and the adoption of new technologies? What is the role of markets? What policies can governments adopt when facing an economic crisis? These are some of the questions the course addresses. The answers will be useful to anybody interested in learning how global markets and businesses operate.

The course can complement the content of more theoretically-oriented courses in the program, by analyzing real-world examples of market integration, economic crises, and technological change. However, we will not approach long-term processes as a succession of dates and events. In each unit, we will introduce the topic with a basic economic model, which will allow students to extract lessons that apply to current socio-economic events.

Bibliography

- , Allen, R. (2011). Global Economic History: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press. (Book)
- , DeLong, B. (2022). Slouching Towards Utopia. An Economic History of the Twentieth Century. Basic Books. (Book)
- , Baldwin, R. (2016). The Great Convergence. Information Technology and the New Globalization. Harvard University Press. (Book)
- , Koyama, M. and Rubin, J. (2022). How the World Became Rich: The Historical Origins of Economic Growth. Polity Press. (Book)
- , Meissner, C. (2024). One From the Many: The Global Economy Since 1850 . Oxford University Press. (Book)

Content

#	Topic
1	The origins of modern economic growth. In the Introduction, we learn about the deep determinants of economic growth: geography, institutions and culture.
2	The Economics of the Malthusian Trap. This section focuses on the economic and demographic factors that led to stagnant living standards for centuries, as well as how economies were able to escape the Malthusian trap.
3	Why was the Industrial Revolution British? We introduce a simple model of technology election based on the relative prices of factors of production and use it to explain why the Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain.
4	Winners and Losers in the First Globalization. This section introduces a trade model that describes how countries choose their specialization and who benefits and loses with trade. Then we apply it to the First Globalization to understand trade patterns between Europe and the New World, their impact on inequality, and the political backlash against free trade.
5	Economic Policy in the Great Depression. We use a Keynesian macroeconomic model to explain the role of fiscal and monetary policy in stabilizing an economy in crisis. After, we analyze economic policy in the US during the Great Depression.
6	From the Great Divergence to the Great Convergence. We will analyze the technological and political determinants of international trade currently. More specifically, we will understand the relationship between ICT technologies and the rise of emerging economies like China.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Participation & attendance	Retake and ordinary round	10.00%
Quizzes/tests	There will be 5 multiple choice quizzes throughout the course based on class materials or additional readings.	Retake and ordinary round	50.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Written examination.	Retake and ordinary round	40.00%

PROGRAMS

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA20 Year 1 (Optative)

BBA23-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA23 Year 1 (Optative)

BBE20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBE20 Year 1 (Optative)

DBAI23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Artificial Intelligence for Business (Undergraduates: Business)
DBAI23 Year 1 (Optative)

GBL24-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)
GBL24 Year 1 (Optative)