

HISTORY 210: INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC HISTORY

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Spring 2006

History 210 offers an introduction to the methodology of research in the field of quantitative economic history sometimes referred to as *Cliometrics*. Since most of you are not economists, no attempt will be made in this course to make you into a “cliometrician.” Our more modest purpose will be to show what *cliometricians do* by examining several issues which have been discussed in the literature at some length and are of interest to a wide spectrum of historians.

Class discussions will focus on a number of *basic readings* – drawn from books and articles dealing with each topic. The course will meet every Wednesday from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. To facilitate discussion students will be expected to “post” comments on the class website. The postings are intended to be short essays that offer a critical assessment and raise questions about one or more of the weekly reading assignments. Students will be expected to post their essays in the Tuesday *prior* to the weekly class meetings. To assure coverage of all topics, in some weeks there will be a delegation of responsibility for reporting on specific articles.

There is one writing assignment that is due at the end of the course in lieu of a final exam. You must write a 15 page paper that examines one of the topics discussed in the course. In addition to embellishing the topics under discussion each week, the “also of interest” readings are intended as suggestions for further thought that can provide material for this writing assignment. You are not, however, limited to these readings in your discussion.

All of the required reading assignments for the course are available in paperback books available from Amazon.com or in pdf files posted on the iLearn course website.

Books you should buy:

Atack, Jeremy, and Peter Passell. 1994. *A New View of American History From Colonial Times to 1940*. Second ed. New York: W.W. Norton.

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

Ransom, Roger L. 1989. *Conflict and Compromise: The Political Economy of Slavery, Emancipation, and the American Civil War*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Temin, Peter. 1989. *Lessons from the Great Depression*: The MIT Press.

Readings marked with an asterick [*] are available as pdf file on iLearn.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

1: Structure and Change in Economic History

Read for Discussion:

North, *Structure and Change*, chapters 1-5

*Chiswick, Carmel Ullman. 2005. Origin of the Historical Statistics of the United States. In *Historical Statistics of the United States, Millennial Edition*, edited by R. Sutch and S. Carter. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Also of Interest

Cameron, Rondo. 1989. *A Concise Economic History of the World from Paleolithic Times to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Cipolla, Carlo M. 1991. *Between Two Cultures: An Introduction to Economic History*. New York: W.W. Norton.

McCloskey, Donald N. 1976. Does the Past Have A Useful Economics? *Journal of Economic Literature* (1976).

Sutch, Richard. 1982. Douglass North and the New Economic History. In *Explorations in the New Economic History: Essays in Honor of Douglass C. North*, edited by R. L. Ransom, R. Sutch and G. M. Walton: Academic Press.

Sutch, Richard, and Susan Carter. 2006. *Historical Statistics of the United States, Earliest Times to the Present: Millennial Edition*. 5 volumes. New York: Cambridge University Press.

United States, Bureau of the Census. 1975. *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*. Two Volumes. U.S. Government Printing Office.

2: Clio and the Numbers Game [2 Meetings]

Read for Discussion:

Atack and Passell, Chapter 1 & 19

*David, Paul A. 1967. The Growth of Real Product in the United States Before 1840: New Evidence, Controlled Conjectures. *Journal of Economic History* 27 (June 1967):151-197

*David, Paul, and Peter Solar. 1977. A Bicentenary Contribution to the History of the Cost of Living in America. In *Research in Economic History*, edited by P. Uselding.

Also of Interest:

Carter, Susan B., Roger L. Ransom, and Richard Sutch. 1991. The Historical Labor Statistics Project at the University of California. *Historical Methods* 24 (Spring 1991):52-65.

Davis, Lance E., and et. al. 1972. *American Economic Growth: An Economist's History of the United States*. New York: Harper & Row.

Easterlin, Richard A. 1961. Regional Income Trends, 1840-1950. In *American Economic History*, edited by S. E. Harris. New York: McGraw Hill.

National_Bureau_of_Economic_Research. 1960. *Trends in the American Economy in the Nineteenth Century*. Vol. 24, *Studies in Income and Wealth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

North, Douglass C. 1961. *The Economic Growth of the United States, 1790-1860*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.

3. Clio and the Numbers Game [Continued]

Read for Discussion:

*DeVries, Jan. 1994. The Industrial Revolution and the Industrious Revolution. *Journal of Economic History* 54 (June 1994):249-270.

*Folbre, Nancy, and Barnet Wagman. 1993. Counting Housework: New Estimates of Real Product in the United States, 1800-1860. *Journal of Economic History* 53 (June 1993):275-288.

*Ransom, Roger L., and Richard Sutch. 1986. The Labor of Older Americans: Retirement of Men on and Off the Job, 1870-1937. *Journal of Economic History* 46 (March 1986).

Also of Interest:

Carter, Susan B., Roger L. Ransom, and Richard Sutch. 1991. The Historical Labor Statistics Project at the University of California. *Historical Methods* 24 (Spring 1991):52-65.

Lebergott, Stanley. 1966. Labor Force and Employment, 1800-1960. In *Output, Employment, and Productivity in the United States After 1800*.

4: Was There an Industrial Revolution?

Read for Discussion:

North, *Structure and Change*, Chs 6-15

McCloskey, Donald, and Roderick Floud, eds. 1994. *The Economic History of Britain Since 1700*. Vol. 1: 1700-1860. New York: Cambridge University Press.

*Crafts, Nick, "The Industrial Revolution"

*McCloskey, Diedre, "1780-1860, A Survey"

*Temin, Peter. 1997. Two Views of the British Industrial Revolution. *Journal of Economic History* 57 (March): 63-82.

Also of Interest:

Crafts, N.F.R. 1980. National Income Estimates and the British Standard of Living Debate: A Reappraisal of 1801-1831. *Explorations in Economic History* 17 (April 1980):176-188

Deane, Phyllis. 1979. *The First Industrial Revolution*. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Deane, Phyllis, and W.A. Cole. 1962. *British Economic Growth, 1688-1959*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Mokyr, Joel, ed. 1999. *The British Industrial Revolution: An Economic Perspective*. Second ed: Westview Press.

5: The Economics of American Slavery and the Civil War

Read for Discussion:

- *Conrad, Alfred H., and John R. Meyer. 1958. The Economics of Slavery in the Ante Bellum South. *Journal of Political Economy* 66 (April 1958):93-130.
- *Fogel, Robert, and Stanley Engerman. 1971. The Economics of Slavery. In *The Reinterpretation of American Economic History*, edited by R. Fogel and S. Engerman. New York: Harper & Row.
- *Ransom, Roger & Richard Sutch. 2001. Conflicting Visions: The American Civil War as a Revolutionary Conflict. *Research in Economic History* 20 (2001):249-301.

Also of Interest:

- Domar, Evsey D. 1970. The Causes of Slavery or Serfdom: A Hypothesis. *Journal of Economic History* 30 (March 1970):18-32.
- Fogel, Robert W. 1989. *Without Consent or Contract: The Rise and Fall of American Slavery*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Fogel, Robert W., and Stanley L. Engerman. 1974. *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery*. Two vols. New York: Little Brown.
- Goldin, Claudia Dale. 1973. The Economics of Emancipation. *Journal of Economic History* 33 (March 1973):66-85.
- Ransom, *Conflict and Compromise*..
- *Ransom, Roger and Richard Sutch. 1988. Capitalists Without Capital: The Burden of Slavery and the Impact of Emancipation. *Agricultural History* (Fall 1988):119-147.
- Wright, Gavin. 1978. *The Political Economy of the Cotton South: Households, Markets, and Wealth in the Nineteenth Century*. New York: W.W. Norton.

6: The Political Economy of the American Civil War and Emancipation

Read for Discussion:

- Atack and Passell, Chs 11-13
- *Goldin, Claudia, and Frank Lewis. 1975. The Economic Costs of the American Civil War: Estimates and Implications. *Journal of Economic History* 35 (June 1975):299-326.
- *Ransom, Roger. 1998. The Economic Consequences of the American Civil War. In *The Political Economy of War and Peace*, edited by M. Wolfson. Norwell, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Ransom, Roger & Richard Sutch. 2001. *One Kind of Freedom: The Economic Consequences of Emancipation*. Second ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Also of Interest:

- Hacker, Louis. 1940. *The Triumph of American Capitalism: The Development of Forces in American History to the End of the Nineteenth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Wright, Gavin. 1986. *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy Since the Civil War*. New York: Basic Books.

7: Women, Children, and the Life-Cycle Transition

Read for Discussion:

- *Folbre, Nancy. 1994. *Who Pays for the Kids? Gender and the Structures of Constraint*. London: Routledge, Chapters 1-3.
- *Goldin, Claudia. 1990. *Understanding the Gender Gap: An Economic History of American Women*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- *Goldin, Claudia. 2006. "The Quiet Revolution That Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family". *Working Paper 11953*. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Also of Interest:

- Carter, Susan, Roger Ransom, and Richard Sutch. 2002. The Decline in Fertility and the Life Cycle Transition in the Antebellum United States. In *History Matters: Economic Growth, Technology, and Population*, edited by T. W. Guinnane, W. A. Sundstrom and W. Whatley. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Kessler-Harris, Alice. 1990. *A Woman's Wage: Historical Meanings and Social Consequences*. Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press.
- Haines, Michael R. 1979. Industrial Work and the Family Life Cycle, 1889-1890. *Research in Economic History* 4 (1979):289-356.
- Hareven, Tamara K. 1982. *Family Time and Industrial Time*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- *Ransom and Sutch. 1986. The Life-Cycle Transition: A Preliminary Report on Wealth Holding in America." Unpublished Paper.

8: The Great Depression

Read for Discussion:

- Atack and Passell, Chs 4, 18, 21, 22
- Temin, Peter. 1989. *Lessons from the Great Depression*: The MIT Press.

Also of Interest:

- Bernstein, Michael A. 1987. *The Great Depression: Delayed Recovery and Economic Change in America, 1929- 1939*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Brunner, Karl, ed. 1981. *The Great Depression Revisited*: Martinus Nijhoff.
- Kindleberger, Charles P. 1986. *The World in Depression, 1929-1939*. Revised and Enlarged ed. New York: Penguin Books.
- Temin, Peter. 1976. *Did Monetary Forces Cause the Great Depression?*: W.W. Norton.
- Friedman, Milton, and Anna J. Schwartz. 1970. *Monetary Statistics of the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press.