Outline

Before the eighteenth century every economy in the world including Britain’s was characterized by slow or no growth in average income levels. Then, beginning in the 1700s, Britain was transformed and within 150 years it became an urban, industrial, high income, high productivity economy that dominated many global export markets. Although the timing differed, European, Asian, and North American economies adopted and adapted the British model. Today, many nations are striving to emulate the successes of industrialized nations. The British experience, therefore, has much to teach us about the advantages and dangers associated with industrialization.

Broadly speaking, ECON 231 examines the origins of modern economic growth concentrating on the Industrial Revolution in Britain and the developments leading up to it. The early sections will be concerned with understanding what happened prior to the Industrial Revolution. The later sections will study the transformation that took place during the Industrial Revolution and will review some of the controversies related to this transformation. In the later sections of the course, some of the consequences of the Industrial Revolution will be addressed. Our analysis of these issues will draw on economic theory and economic and statistical modeling techniques.

The prerequisite for this course is ECON 110 (or ECON 111). It is assumed that all students have some previous experience in economics, statistics, and basic calculus.
Requirements

A midterm exam will be written in class (80 minutes) on Tuesday, October 25th (no exceptions without documented medical excuse).

A term paper (approximately 4,000 words or 12 double spaced pages) must be handed in by 5:30pm on Friday, November 25th (no exceptions without documented medical excuse). A late penalty of 2% per day will be applied to all papers submitted past the due date. With the exception of November 25th, days end at 4:00pm. The late penalty continues to accumulate until a hard copy has been received.

In addition to the term paper due near the end of the term, students will be required to submit a short essay proposal. Proposals are due Tuesday, October 4th and will count 5% toward the term paper grade.

A list of potential topics is included with this outline.

NOTE: In addition to the hard copy due on Friday, November 25th, an electronic copy of all term papers MUST be emailed to “econ231papers@econ.queensu.ca” before a grade can be assigned in the course. The papers will be checked for plagiarism.

A final exam (3 hours) will be written during the December exam period (no exceptions other than those approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science).

The midterm exam is worth 20% of the final grade.

The term paper is worth 30% of the final grade.

The final exam is worth 50% of the final grade.

All midterms and term papers will be returned to students with valid student ID cards through the Department of Economics, Distribution Centre, Dunning Hall, Room 334.

Faculty of Arts and Science Statement on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities).
Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1) and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen’s. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Course Home Page

Announcements, handouts, and additional course materials will be posted on the ECON 231 home page. Students should check this page regularly during the term.

http://www.econ.queensu.ca/lewis/econ231

Required and Suggested Readings

Required readings are marked with a ‘*’. All required readings are in a course package sold by the Copy Center (P&CC), located in the basement of the JDUC. Nearly all the readings can be downloaded by Queen’s students from the web-based journal archives, available through the library home page. Readings that cannot be downloaded (marked ‘R’) have been placed on Reserve in Stauffer Library.

Abbreviations of Journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Journal Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>J.E.H.:</td>
<td>Journal of Economic History</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.H.R.:</td>
<td>Economic History Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.E.H.:</td>
<td>Explorations in Economic History</td>
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Reading List and Approximate Lecture Schedule

1) Introduction and Overview of Long-Run Economic Growth (weeks 1-2)

2) Demographic Change (weeks 2-3)


3) Enclosures and Agricultural Productivity (weeks 4-5)


4) Path Dependence, Institutions, and Economic Growth (week 6)


5) Transportation (week 8)


6) Was the Industrial Revolution a “Revolution”? (week 9)


7) Theories of the Industrial Revolution (week 10)


8) Standards of Living during and following the Industrial Revolution (weeks 11-12)


*Suggested Essay Topics*

1. A comparison of output and population growth rates in industrial and pre-industrial economies. Discuss the contribution of factor inputs and productivity change.


3. Standards of living prior to the Industrial Revolution.

4. Reasons for the enclosure of the open fields in Britain.

5. Explanations for the "scattering" of plots in open field agriculture.
6. The debate on the impact of enclosures on agricultural productivity.
7. The evidence on the timing of the industrial revolution in Britain.
8. The interpretation of the Industrial Revolution as an “industrious revolution.”
9. An analysis of changes in the standard of living during and after the industrial revolution.
11. The relationship between institutions and economic growth: a comparison of New World economies.
12. Explaining the rapid growth of population in nineteenth-century Britain.
13. Interpreting Britain's dominance over continental Europe as the cradle of industrialization.
14. The timing, causes and significance of productivity change in ocean shipping.
15. The debate on the impact of "crowding out" during the industrial revolution in Britain.
16. Inequality during the industrial revolution.
17. The slave trade and the industrial revolution: the ‘Williams Thesis.’
18. Topic of your choice (subject to approval).