

Spring 2019

ECON 4774-001: Topics in Economic Development, History and Political Economy

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Class Schedule: TTh 12:30 – 1:45 pm in HELLEMS 211.

Office Hours: TTh 11:00 am - noon and by appointment.

Textbooks: There are four required textbooks for this class:

- 1) *The Rise and Decline of Nations* by Mancur Olson (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press), 1984, reprint.
- 2) *War, Peace and Prosperity in the Name of God* by Murat Iyigun (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press), 2015.
- 3) *A Culture of Growth: The Origins of the Modern Economy* by Joel Mokyr, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), 2017.
- 4) *Rulers, Religion and Riches* by Jared Rubin (Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press), 2017.

To keep track of class attendance & participation, I also require students to have with them their CU Clickers. If you do not already own one, it can be purchased at the CU Bookstore. Please register your clicker at <https://cuconnect.colorado.edu/uPortal/index.jsp>

There will also be periodic assignments of published articles that will be e-mailed to the class or can be accessed via our library weblinks.

We will run our class thru Canvas on CUConnect and the class link is:

<https://cuboulder.instructure.com/courses/24086>

Course Objectives: Sustained economic growth is a relatively recent economic phenomenon that came about due to the Industrial Revolution and as a result of which the standards of living improved dramatically in the Anglo-Saxon West since the 18th century. However, global inequality has also risen to unprecedented levels because other parts of the world still significantly lag the West in economic, social and political terms. In this class, we shall study the comparative development paths of Anglo-Saxon Europe and the Middle East. In doing so, we shall primarily focus on the five books required for the class.

The class is also intended to provide an insiders' perspective on the writing of a book (*War, Peace and Prosperity in the Name of God*) by studying the literature, history and ideas that inspired various components and the key ideas which led to the book.

Assignments and Grading:

The final grade for the class will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	20 %
Group Presentation	20 %
Midterm	30 %
Final	30 %

No makeup exams or substitute grading assignments will be given. The only exceptions are covered by campus guidelines on absences due to religious observance (see below).

Class participation and discussions are an essential component of this class. Hence, **6 MISSED CLASSES without an excused absence WILL AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO A CLASS FAILURE (i.e., course grade of F).**

Exam Absence: If you fail to show up for an exam with out an acceptable excuse (such as an illness that can be documented with a medical note or you have been given permission by me to take a make-up exam), you will get a zero for that exam.

Classroom Behavior: *Turn your cell phones and laptops off.* If you use your laptop for class purposes, you are required to sit in the last row of the classroom.

Harassment Policy: The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member or faculty

Preliminary Course Outline:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1/15	The Course Mechanics and Logistics Introduction & Facts to be Explained
1/22	A Framework for Analysis The Solow Growth Model
1/29	The Solow Growth Model
2/5	The Relevant Empirical Facts about the Big Picture
2/12	Jones, Pritchett and Temple articles.
2/19	<i>The Rise and Decline of Nations</i> (Chs. 1, 2, 3)