14.71
AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY
Hans-Joachim Voth

This class examines broad growth trends in the world and specific economic trends in the United States to better understand current events. Your class grade will depend upon one midterm exam (30%), one final quiz (40%), and 6 problem sets (30%). All exams and problems sets are mandatory and are due on the indicated day. If you have a conflict with another exam, then you can always take the exam for this class early. I will try to stick to the outline below as closely as possible. The readings are all required but please keep in mind that you can skim through many of them. Readings marked * are essential for classroom discussion, and I will cold-call students with questions relating to these texts.


Thursday, 4.9. Introduction – World Growth Trends


PS 1 DUE

MEASURING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Tuesday, 23.9.


Thursday, 25.9.

Peter Laslett, *The World We Have Lost: Further Explored.* Ch 4-5: 81-121.


Tuesday, 30.9.

Victor Davis Hanson, *Carnage and Culture,* Doubleday, Chapter 1: 1-24.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

Thursday, 2.10.

Atack and Passell, Ch. 1, 7, parts of ch 8

PS 2 DUE

Tuesday, 6.10.

PS 1 DUE; Atack and Passell Ch. 17

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Thursday, 9.10.

Atack and Passell, Ch. 4

Tuesday, 14.10.

Atack and Passell, Ch 18
SOUTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, 16.10. Atack and Passell, ch 12, 13

PS 3 DUE

Tuesday, 21.10. Atack and Passell, bits of ch 14


Tuesday, 28.10. MIDTERM EXAM

CHANGING LABOR MARKETS


Tuesday, 4.11. no class


PS 4 DUE

Tuesday, 11.11. Veteran’s Day – no class

REGULATING INDUSTRY

Thursday, 13.11. Atack and Passell, Ch. 23
THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Tuesday, 18.11.  Atack and Passell, Ch. 21


PS 5 DUE

Tuesday, 25.11. Atack and Passell, Ch. 22
Barry Eichengreen, Golden Fetters, ch. 9: 258-286.

Thursday, 28.11. Thanksgiving Vacation

THE POSTWAR WORLD


OVERVIEW

Thursday, 4.12. QUIZ


PS 6 DUE