This course introduces the main themes of Economic History, from the Neolithic to the mid-twentieth century. It is about asking the big questions. We will explore why some countries have become so rich, and ask why others remain poor. Among other things, we will uncover the origins of the modern state, and the institutions that make trade possible. And we will explore the evolution of the global economy – periods of globalisation, economic collapse, and rapid industrialisation.

Class Schedule & Readings

**Week 1 (27/09/17): Introduction**
Note: this week will only have a lecture; no seminars

**PART I – Poverty and Riches**

**Week 2 (04/10/17): The Great Fact**


**Week 3 (11/10/17): The Malthusian Trap – why were our ancestors so poor?**


Dietrich Vollrath, "Who are you calling Malthusian?" (blogpost): [https://growthecon.com/blog/Malthus/](https://growthecon.com/blog/Malthus/)

**Week 4 (18/10/17): The Earliest Divergence: Why Eurasia?**


**Week 5 (25/10/17): The Industrial Revolution: Sources of Growth**

Week 6 (01/11/17) – Reading Week – NO CLASSES

Week 7 (08/11/17): The Industrial Revolution: Sources of Innovation


Week 8 (15/11/17): The Mortality & Fertility Transitions


Week 9 (22/11/17): The Great Divergence: East Asia


Week 10 (29/11/17): The Great Divergence: The Middle East


PART II – Institutions & Trade

Week 11 (06/12/17): Deep Roots of Development


Week 12 (13/12/17): Understanding Institutions


Week 13 (17/01/18): Trade, and How to Maintain It


Week 14 (24/01/18): The Rise of the Modern State


Week 15 (31/01/18): The Rise of Democracy


Week 16 (07/02/18): Inequality within Countries


Week 17 (14/02/18) – Reading Week – NO CLASSES

Part III – The Modern Global Economy

Week 18 (21/02/18): Globalisation 1850-1914


Week 19 (28/02/18): The Great Divergence: De-Industrialisation of the Periphery?


Week 20 (07/03/18): Protectionism vs. Free Trade


Laura Panza and Jeffrey G. Williamson, "Did Muhammad Ali Foster Industrialization in Early Nineteenth-Century Egypt?" *The Economic History Review* 68, no. 1 (February 1, 2015): 79–100

Week 21 (14/03/18): The Gold Standard


Week 22 (21/03/18): De-Globalisation and the Great Depression


Week 23 (28/03/18): Post-War Re-Globalisation and Catch-up Growth

