**History 480: How the West and the Rest Grew Rich**

(#32967 for advanced undergrads; #32968 for graduate students)

Mondays, 2:00-4:50 with break, 2 Lincoln Hall 103. Prof. Deirdre N. McCloskey, [deirdre2@uic.edu](mailto:deirdre2@uic.edu). No office hours: use my email anytime and I will respond promptly. There will be a Blackboard site.

The course requires both undergrads and graduate students to read pretty difficult books about 40 pages a day (two hours a day, seven days a week), and to write for about three hours a week. So if you as an undergraduate haven’t got about 20 hours outside class to spend on the course you won’t do very well (graduate students of course are expected to do much more). If you haven’t got 10-15 hours plus class time for this course alone (that’s about a C+ level of effort), don’t take it: you’ll be behind all the time, and will be miserable. I want you to succeed, not to be miserable!

Order all the books right now, through Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com or other sites such as Abebooks (secondhand: notice that the new-book sites almost always have sometimes *very* cheap copies available secondhand, usually from independent bookstores). To succeed in the course *you must own copies* (even if electronic) *of all the books*. ***Bring them to class*** so that we can talk about particular sentences and pages with ease. ***Mark them up***; argue with them; take notes on every spare space, such as the fly leaves. If you *must* use a library copy, I want to see ample notes (*not* in the book if it’s from the library!!). Show me your books and notes. *Attack* the books, as a professional scholar.

There will be no final exam, but frequent, graded pop quizzes on content (just to keep you on track), and *every week* a short essay, amounting in total to forty or so pages of writing over the term (the graduate students will do in addition a big bibliographical essay). To do the writing well you need to buy, own, read, and study three little books [really, truly: I will start marking down for bad writing in cold February]:

* **William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*.** NY: Macmillan. Paper, cheap. Always available second hand even cheaper. The original 1918 version by Strunk himself is available free on line. Google <”William Strunk” “Elements of Style” –White>. But the bought edition is simpler.
* **Deirdre McCloskey, *Economical Writing.***2nd ed.Waveland Press, Inc**,** 2000, ISBN**:** 1577660633, 90 pp., $10. (All royalties earned from your purchase of any book by me will be contributed to the endowment fund of the University: I make an annual contribution in that amount.)
* **Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, *“They Say/I Say”: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*.** New York: Norton, 2006. ISBN: 0-393-92409-2.

Strunk and White and the Graff and Birkenstein are available always at the Bookstore, under one or another course, or at College Books on Taylor Street (a very competent outfit, btw). My little style book is cheaply available secondhand, and is anyway cheap firsthand.

Fiction often tells more than journalism or history. **Be reading throughout:** **V. S. Naipaul, *A House for Mr. Biswas****.* Use it in your essays when appropriate (extra points for excellent uses). What does it say about how economic growth occurs?

**Grading expectations for undergrads:** Vigorous, argumentative class participation = 15%; quizzes = 15%; daily papers, graded for both style and content = 70%.

**Graduate students** will be expected to write in addition **a substantial historiographic, critical essay** on the literature of world economic growth, due in the last meeting of the class. The essay will require you to have read well beyond the assigned reading in the course (so that you yourself will be prepared to offer in coming years an undergraduate course on the subject). Use the bibliography in McCloskey, *Bourgeois Dignity* (give me your email and I’ll send you the Word file so you can merely strip it for you own purposes without typing), but supplement it with writings on your particular field of interest (submit these as a Word file and we will produce a fuller bibliography by the end). A few more recent books not in *Dignity’s* bibliography are read critically in “Little Lessons on Scholarship”: Ian Morris. 2010. *Why the West Rules*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Erik Ringmar. 2005 (2007). *Why Europe Was First: Social Change and Economic Growth in Europe and East Asia 1500-2050*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; Eric H. Mielants. 2008. [*The Origins of Capitalism and the "Rise of the West*.*"*](http://www.amazon.com/Origins-Capitalism-Rise-West/dp/1592135765/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1298738324&sr=1-3-spell)Philadelphia: Temple University Press; Martha C. Howell. 2010. *Commerce before Capitalism in Europe, 1300-1600.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; Eric Jones. 2010. *Locating the Industrial Revolution: Inducement and Response*. World Scientific.

**Some rules of the house:**

If you have disabilities I need to know about, tell me now (I have one myself, so I do not regard such disabilities as anything but something for you and me respectfully to work around).

If you have to be out of town for a class, tell me the week before. I take attendance, and being absent without leave counts as a zero for class participation that day.

Bring children and dogs to class if you want. If they are well behaved, it’s fine with me. No joke. I don’t want baby-sitting to be an obstacle to your education. Anyway, children and dogs humanize a classroom.

Come to class on time. Traffic is not an excuse. Never leave until the end. Think of me as your boss (I am) and the class as a business engagement (it is).

Sit close to the front so I don’t have to project. Let’s converse. Choose your seats early and then sit in the same one so I can make a seating chart, to get your names straight.

Learn to sit upright and *look* attentive (what’s going on in your head is no business of mine; but what you look like, for success in the world, is my business as a teacher; consider: if you slouch in your first business meeting in the Real World, you’ll get fired that afternoon!).

No texting or internet browsing.

Sleep if you feel like it (seriously: if you’re tired, sleep!). Eat if you want, too, quietly (I don’t care; the University, though, does: so clean up rigorously afterwards). If you need to relieve yourself, get up and exit quietly, as you wish.

**Big, compulsory warning:** If you plagiarize (using someone else’s words as your own, that is, without acknowledgment) you *will* flunk the class, and I will attempt to have you tossed out of the University. I have sometimes succeeded. This is your fair, and last, warning.

Week 1 meeting, Monday, **Jan 9:** Introductions. Instructions. The shape of world economic history. Introducing McCloskey’s Tale, as a framework to bounce off, agreeing or disagreeing with it.

After class: Order immediately, this afternoon **Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can’t Explain the Modern World,*** Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010, paperback, cheap, cheap! Start reading it pronto. You will need to have read the whole thing by the next class (two weeks from now, because of the Martin Luther King holiday), so hop to it. Two hours a day, quickly, thinking, arguing, noting surprising items. Before you begin *read my note-taking examples*, “Little Lessons in Scholarship,” on the Blackboard site.

Also acquire and start reading the three style books; I expect your papers *by February* to reflect the rules in the books, and will begin downgrading you for mess-ups.

[Monday, **Jan 16**: Martin Luther King day. No class.]

2nd meeting.) Monday, **Jan 23** You will have read (quiz! quiz!) **McCloskey**. Write to be read out loud *today* a little 1- or 2-page paper (double spaced, one side only, spell-checked, well written according to the rules in *The Elements of Style* and *Economical Writing* and *They Say, I Say*) on the theme: “What I Read in McCloskey That I Am Deeply Suspicious Of.” (Do not, please, say “Everything”! Be specific. Page and line as illustrations.)

**The pattern of the classes will be: first half, before a stretching break, reading what you wrote for the day on the week’s reading, followed by loving but serious criticism of your ideas and those in the books you read. Second half: introduction to the following week’s reading—How To Read It, What to Watch For—together with (sometimes) advice on style and argument.**

After class and during the week: read Goldstone, entire

3rd meeting.) **Jan 30**: You will have read **Jack Goldstone, *Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History 1500-1850*,** Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008, entire. You will read out loud a little essay of 2 pages or so: “How Does Goldstone Prove His Case?”

You know by now what to do during the coming week, namely:

4.) Feb 6: for this day you will have read **Jack Goody, *The Eurasian Miracle*,** Polity: Cambridge, 2010. Paperback, 159 pages. $20 on amazon; maybe cheaper second hand. Essay: “What signs are there in Goody’s book of an argument characteristic of anthropology? Does he grasp economics?”

5.) Feb 13: you will have read the first half of **Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350.*** Oxford University Press, 1991. pp. 464. [ISBN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [978-0195067743](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0195067743). **First half e**ssay: “What relevance does trade have for economic growth, according to Abu-Lughod and according to me [i.e. you, not Prof. McCloskey]?”

**6.) Feb 20: Abu-Lughad, second half.** Essay: “A Critical Assessment of Abu Lughad’s Theme”

7.) Feb 27: you will have read the first half of [**Andre Gunter Frank**](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=rdr_ext_aut?_encoding=UTF8&index=books&field-author=Andre%20Gunder%20Frank)**,** [***ReORIENT: Global Economy in the Asian Age***](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0520214749/ref=rdr_ext_tmb)**.** Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1998*.* (Paperback) **First half three-page** Essay: “What’s Right About Frank?”

8.) March 5: **Frank**, second half. Three-page Essay: “What is (Fatally) Wrong With Frank?”

9.) March 12: you will have read the first half of **Prasannan Parthasarathi, *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not***. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, paperback **First half ess**ay: “Were there important early divergences between Europe and the Middle East and South Asia?”

Week of March 19: Spring Break

10.) March 26: **Parthasarathi** second half. Essay: “Does Parthasarathi make a convincing case for the excellence of Indian institutions and technology? Why, then, the Divergence?”

**11.)** April 2: you will have read the first half of [**Roy Bin Wong**](http://www.amazon.com/Roy-Bin-Wong/e/B001KJ1ZNQ/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2?qid=1321914360&sr=1-2)**,** [***China Transformed: Historical Change and the Limits of European Experience***](http://www.amazon.com/China-Transformed-Historical-European-Experience/dp/0801483271/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1321914360&sr=1-2)**.**  Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997, 337 pp. **First half.** Essay: (same question as for Parthasarathi 1; think of the parallels): “Were there important early divergences between Europe and China?”

12.) April 9: **Wong**, second half. Essay (Same as Parthasarathi 2): “Does Wong make a convincing case for the excellence of Chinese institutions and technology? Why, then, the Divergence?”

🡪 Have you been reading *A House for Mr. Biswas*? Do so (quiz?).

**13.) April 16:** you will have read the first half of **Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and R. Bin Wong, *Before and Beyond Divergence: The Politics of Economic Change in China and Europe*.** Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011. $37 on amazon, hardcover. First half essay: Free choice, but substantial.

14.) April 23: Last week**: Rosenthal and Wong**, second half. Essay: ditto. **Come to a defensible and defended (they say, I say) conclusions about the West and the Rest**