

Introduction to Global Economic History (F000798)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Ryckbosch, Wouter LW03 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Economics	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Economic and social history, Development theories, Historical capitalism, Globalisation, social and economic role of the state

Position of the course

This course unit aims to familiarize students with the major economic transformations since the onset of the Industrial Revolution at the end of the eighteenth century. The various interpretations of the nature of these developments, their causes, and their global consequences are explored in this course unit.

Contents

In this course unit, we examine the key historical and economic debates concerning the development of global capitalism and economic growth from around 1750 to the present.

Through empirical case studies, historical interpretative frameworks, social science concepts, and economic models, we highlight the major developments and debates in and about the economic history of the past 250 years from multiple perspectives.

Topics covered include, among others: economic growth and capitalism, industrialization and mechanization, science and technology, slavery and (un)free labor, government regulation and free market trade, risk and financial crisis, consumption and everyday economics, neoliberalism and deregulation, and the relationship between economy and ecology.

Initial competences

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Final competences

- 1 To know and to understand the impact of changing economic structures on societal processes.
- 2 To be able to reflect in a critical way on the role of 'globalisation' in contemporary society.
- 3 To know the broad outlines of recent economic history.
- 4 To be able to evaluate the different models of economic change and

development critically.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader of the course Introduction to Global Economic History

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

References

- Allen Robert C. (2011). *Global Economic History. A Very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be put to the lecturer after appointment via email.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Calculation of the examination mark

90% of the total grade on the written exam; 10% of the total grade on participation (presence in class, active participation during lectures, preparation of the reading).

Facilities for Working Students

- Absence is allowed provided that a replacement task is submitted.
- Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided.
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.