Historical Perspectives on Economic Growth

Module Code: ECO00018C
Credits: 20
Terms: 1-3
Contact Hours: 24 Lectures, 2 Workshops, 6 Seminars (32 contact hours)
Module Organiser: Dr J Spicksley

Aims
This module is designed to help you understand the historical processes of economic growth as they first appeared in the western economies from the late eighteenth century onwards. It will provide you with a generic background to:

- The causes and consequences of industrialisation
- The determinants of economic growth and comparative advantage
- The role of international regimes in promoting growth in terms of trade, finance and exchange rate regimes
- The economic impact of war
- The sources of instability in economic growth and the impact of depression
- Alternative routes to economic growth

The module will also give you the opportunity to consider a number of specific historical examples of economic growth and some of the impacts of that growth. These include:

- How, when and why the ‘Great Divergence’ between the western and eastern economies occurred
- The process and determinants of industrialisation in Britain, the United States and Germany
- The causes and consequences of the first period of globalisation in the late nineteenth century
- The impact of industrialisation on population growth
- The economics of the First World War
- The causes and consequences of the Great Depression
- The Command Economy under Lenin and Stalin

Objectives
On completing the module, you will have a greater understanding of the diverse routes that the western economies took to industrialisation. You will also be able to identify a range of factors that combined to bring about economic growth, and understand the historical complexity of that growth. In addition you will gain a number of transferrable skills suitable to the workplace. These include: critically assessing information; working in a group; delivering essays and presentations; analysing and developing arguments; and preparing for and undertaking assessment under pressure of time.

Assessment
The module is assessed by an unseen 3 hour examination in the Summer Term.

Pre-requisites
None