Course Goals:
This course is designed to give students a background in the causes and consequences of the profound change in political, economic and social changes that have so profoundly altered the world over the past five centuries, and a basic knowledge of both classic and contemporary scholarly accounts of these changes. After describing political and economic conditions in the pre-modern world, it describes how a distinctively “modern” political economy emerged in Western Europe, how this political economy became pervasive over the rest of the world, and the long term and continuing consequences of these changes. The reading list mixes historical and social scientific accounts, and the mixture is designed to allow us to view events in light of wider theorizing, and to examine the historical context in which these theories are situated.

Grading:
Class Participation __ 20%
12 Reading Comprehension Quizzes x 5% __ 55% [Lowest Score dropped]
Take-Home Final __ 25% (0% WI)
Final Paper __ (25% WI)

Course Policies:
Unexcused late work will be penalized a whole letter grade, and an additional letter grade for every additional 24 hours of lateness. Plagiarism or cheating will be treated seriously and reported to the Board of Academic Honesty. Students will not be able to make up the quizzes.

Course Requirements:
Attendance and Reading: Students will be graded on their attendance and participation in discussion classes, indicated in individual weeks.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered in the first thirty minutes of class, and will require students to identify and discuss key concepts from that week’s readings.

Final: A final exam will ask students to write two short essays on themes covering the whole of the course material.
Writing Intensive Students: WI students must write a twenty five-page research paper on a topic related to the course material. The topic must be approved orally by the professor before the 8th week of class. The paper itself is due on the last day of class.

January 18th: No Class

January 25th: Introduction

February 1st: The starting point: The World in 1494
Thomas Malthus (1798), An Essay on the Principle of Population, Chapters 1-2, pp.1-11,
http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPop.html

February 8th: Why did states form in Western Europe?

February 15th: Why did Western Europe develop faster than the rest of the world?


**February 22nd: Why did England develop faster than other parts of Western Europe?**


[https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/poverty-philosophy/ch02b.htm](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/poverty-philosophy/ch02b.htm)

**March 1st: Why did some European states have more effective state institutions?**


March 8th: Did colonialism create inequalities within the non-European world?

March 22nd: Did devolved colonialism have a negative effect?

March 29th: Why did some states become associated with national identities?

**April 5th: Why did some states become democracies?**

**April 12th: Why did convergence in economic outcomes not occur after independence?**

**April 19th: Can state policy lead to economic development?**


April 26th: Is higher state capacity the solution for the problems of poor countries?


