



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Economic and Social History

Academic Year 2026/2027

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

2. Course

ECONOMICS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Economic and Social History (03310)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester



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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor ALVARO ANTONIO CALADO AFONSO MATIAS

12. Assistants

Prof. Doutor LUCAS DE PAULA ANDRADE MENESCAL

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

To introduce students to Economic and Social History, focusing on the long-run evolution of economies and societies, the emergence of modern economic growth, and the major institutional, demographic, technological and social transformations that shaped the world economy, while linking historical facts, quantitative evidence and key economic ideas.

15. Specific Objectives

To distinguish Economic and Social History from the History of Economic Thought. To identify pre-industrial economies and the Malthusian regime. To explain the origins of modern economic growth. To relate geography, institutions, culture, demography, colonisation, trade, technology and the state to different development paths.

16. Skills to be acquired

By the end of the course, students should be able to interpret economic and social processes from a historical and comparative perspective; understand long-run factors linked to wealth, poverty and divergence between countries; relate economic change to institutions, technology, demography and social organisation; and critically read texts and simple empirical evidence.

17. Teaching Methodology



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The course combines lectures and discussion, supported by the main textbook, authors' teaching materials, complementary readings and selected historical evidence. Teaching will include conceptual framing, guided discussion of readings, analysis of simple graphs and historical series, international case studies and students' oral participation.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Introduction to Economic and Social History
 - 1.1. Object, methods and sources
 - 1.2. Economic history, social history and the history of economic thought
 - 1.3. Long-run analysis, international comparison and quantitative evidence
2. The world before modern economic growth
 - 2.1. Agrarian economies, subsistence and productivity
 - 2.2. Population, income and the Malthusian trap
 - 2.3. Cities, trade, the state and social hierarchies
3. Why did the world become rich?
 - 3.1. The Great Enrichment and the break of the last two centuries
 - 3.2. Modern economic growth, well-being and inequality
 - 3.3. Monocausal and integrated explanations
4. Geography, institutions and culture
 - 4.1. Location, climate, disease, energy and transport
 - 4.2. Political institutions, property rights, the state and markets
 - 4.3. Social norms, religion, science, the Enlightenment and human capital
5. Demography, family, health and social mobility
 - 5.1. Demographic transition and family patterns
 - 5.2. Mortality, life expectancy and education
 - 5.3. Economic and social consequences of demographic change
6. Colonisation, empires, world trade and slavery
 - 6.1. European expansion, Atlantic trade and world integration
 - 6.2. Coercion, inequality and colonial legacies
 - 6.3. Historical persistence and comparative development
7. Northwestern Europe and the British Industrial Revolution
 - 7.1. Why Britain?
 - 7.2. Energy, wages, technology, markets and institutions
 - 7.3. Industrialisation, urbanisation, labour and new social classes
- The modern economy and the uneven diffusion of growth
 - 8.1. Fossil energy, firms, finance, the welfare state and globalisation
 - 8.2. Catch-up, late industrialisation and comparative development
 - 8.3. Portugal in the European and world economy
9. Final synthesis
 - 9.1. Growth, inequality, sustainability and the future of development
 - 9.2. Facts, ideas and economic policies in historical perspective



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19. Assessment Methods

Continuous assessment follows the General Regulation for Knowledge Assessment in force. At least two compulsory elements will be considered: oral interventions distributed throughout the semester and a final written test. Short exercises, reading comments or individual and/or group assignments may also be included, if provided for in the continuous assessment plan.

20. Didactic Resources

Main textbook indicated in the bibliography, teaching materials associated with the textbook, complementary readings, class guides, excerpts from historical sources and public databases relevant to Economic and Social History. Graphs, maps, statistical tables, timelines and short case studies will also be used.

21. Sustainability Objectives

SDG 4 - Quality education: develops critical analysis, historical literacy and interpretation of empirical evidence.

SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth: frames the historical origins of modern growth and labour transformations.

SDGs 10 and 16: addresses inequalities, institutions, the state and governance.

22. Keywords

Economic history
Social history
Economic growth
Industrial Revolution
Institutions
Comparative



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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): KOYAMA, Mark e Jared RUBIN
Title: How the World Became Rich: The Historical Origins of Economic Growth
Edition: 1st Year: 2022
Local: Cambridge / Medford
Publisher: Polity Press
ISBN Code: 978-1-5095-4023-5

Author(s): ALLEN, Robert C.
Title: Global Economic History: A Very Short Introduction
Edition: 1st Year: 2011
Local: Oxford
Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN Code: 978-0-19-959665-2

Author(s): BROADBERRY, Stephen e Kyoji FUKAO (eds.)
Title: The Cambridge Economic History of the Modern World
Edition: 1st Year: 2021
Local: Cambridge
Publisher: Cambridge University Press
ISBN Code: 978-1-107-15945-7

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): POMERANZ, Kenneth
Title: The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy
Edition: 1st Year:
Local: Princeton
Publisher: Princeton University Press
ISBN Code: 978-0-691-09010-8

Author(s): MOKYR, Joel
Title: A Culture of Growth: The Origins of the Modern Economy
Edition: 1st Year: 2016
Local: Princeton
Publisher: Princeton University Press



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ISBN Code: 978-0-691-16888-3

Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor ALVARO ANTONIO CALADO AFONSO MATIAS
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Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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