

Econ 135 Course Summary & Grading

Econ 135: Economic Growth in Historical and Comparative Perspective

Course Purpose: This course examines the idea & the reality of economic growth in historical perspective, beginning with the invention of agriculture & continuing through with forecasts for the 21st century and beyond. Topics covered include, among others: human language & sociability; the discovery of agriculture & the domestication of animals; the origins & maintenance of gross inequality; Malthusian economies; the commercial & industrial revolutions; modern economic growth; international prosperity differentials; OECD convergence & East Asian growth miracles; the political economy of growth & stagnation; & the stubborn persistence of poverty.

Assessment: Students are graded on the basis of fifteen assignments (45 points; 3 each), a midterm (20 points), in-class clicker-based quizzes and exercises (10 points), section exercises and participation (10 points), & a final (40 points).

Acknowledgement: This course is borrowed & revised from one taught at Harvard by Melissa Dell <<https://scholar.harvard.edu/dell/home>>. It was her idea to teach [a course like this](#), & her work that broke the ground & made this course excellent—where it is excellent. She is—as one of her former GSIs said at dinner earlier this month—an absolute intellectual BOSS. You can see her in action in Barcelona here on Youtube: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5viPnW240A>>