

COURSE DETAIL

ECONOMIC HISTORY: THE GREAT DIVERGENCE, CONVERGENCE AND BEYOND

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

Program(s)

Summer in Oxford, Lady Margaret Hall

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Economics

UCEAP Course Number

151

UCEAP Course Suffix

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UCEAP Official Title

ECONOMIC HISTORY: THE GREAT DIVERGENCE, CONVERGENCE AND BEYOND

UCEAP Transcript Title

ECON HIST: DIV&CONV

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course begins with an introduction to Economic History as an interdisciplinary subject, and to the methods and sources economic historians use. It then explores key events of the past 500 years, including the Transatlantic slave-trade, colonialism, and the Industrial Revolution, examining their links to the phenomenon known as the 'Great Divergence', when levels of wealth in the Western world separated from everywhere else. It then considers the more recent phenomenon of 'Convergence', and investigate why certain countries, including Japan and China, managed to catch up with their European counterparts, whilst others fell further behind. In the final part of the course students reflect on the limits of 'Convergence', and assess whether inequality has become an immovable feature of global development. The course introduces frontline research and a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, with a particular focus on quantitative methods.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number**Host Institution Course Title**

ECONOMIC HISTORY: THE GREAT DIVERGENCE, CONVERGENCE, AND BEYOND

Host Institution Course Details<https://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/economic-history-great-divergence-convergence-and-beyond...>**Host Institution Campus****Host Institution Faculty**

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2026-2027

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