

EC104 First Seminar
The World Economy: History & Theory
Pre-Modern Growth: pre-1500

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Welcome!

- I am Junxi Liu, a PhD student in the department of economics
- There are a total of four seminar classes for EC104, one every two weeks, and each class will cover two weeks' lecture material
- Communication with me: junxi.liu.1@warwick.ac.uk
- Class materials, other seminar classes I teach, and office hour bookings can be found in my website: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/jliu/teaching/>
- Office hours: Mondays 2pm-6pm, S2.80, **book via my website**

Logistics

- If you can't make one of the seminars, you can come to any other seminar ***I teach*** without asking for the department's approval: simply come and let me know which one you are supposed to be in.
- ***If you can't make any of the time slots I teach, you have to contact the UG office directly.***
- Full list of classes that I teach can be found on my website
- Anonymous feedback form: <https://forms.gle/jH2VCjuwqJrSETHN7>

Class Format

- You will be divided into groups to discuss 2-3 questions together, and questions are already posted on Moodle
- The goal is to get you to read, think, and speak
- Participation at least once per seminar will give you 10% of total marks
- At the start of each seminar, make sure you have the textbook (physical or online) and the lecture slides ready, so we are always on the same page (literally)

Seminar



Seminar Topic 1: Pre-Modern Growth: pre-1500

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Seminar logistics

Who is your tutor, what's the purpose of seminar classes, how they will work

Questions for Discussion

From required readings

Koyama and Rubin, *How the World Became Rich*

Chapter 1: Why, When, and How Did the World Become Rich?

Chapter 2: Did Some Societies Win the Geography Lottery?

Q: How and why have living standards changed since 1500?

From lectures

What is the Malthusian trap? What does it explain about the world before 1500?

Why EC104?

- This might be the one and only economics course in your undergrad that does not need math
- History is not only your learning outcomes, but also the start of your own economic thinking and research
- Make sure to
 - Read all required readings and review lecture slides before coming to the seminar: the textbooks contains mostly facts or conclusions that most researchers agree
 - Summarize and understand the reading: do not get lost in the details
 - Let the readings inspire you: what more could be done?

Question 1

Koyama and Rubin, How the World Became Rich

Chapter 1: Why, When, and How Did the World Become Rich?

Chapter 2: Did Some Societies Win the Geography Lottery?

Q: How and why have living standards changed since 1500?

- Introduce yourselves in one sentence
- Each member propose one point you want to make
- Discuss all the points made, and all members are free to add new ideas and thoughts
- You will have 5 minutes to finish above tasks
- We will discuss this question together

Question 2

Question from Lectures

What is the Malthusian trap? What does it explain about the world before 1500?

- Each member propose one point you want to make
- Discuss all the points made, and all members are free to add new ideas and thoughts
- You will have 5 minutes to finish above tasks
- We will discuss this question together