

20528 Globalization, Divergence and Inequality in Historical Perspective

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Course Objectives: The course intends to explore the processes of globalization, of divergence/convergence between different areas of the world, and their impact on inequality adopting an historical and non-deterministic perspective. The first part of the course will focus on very long-term dynamics, approximately from the early modern period up until the Industrial Revolution. The intellectual framework of the 'Great Divergence' (leading to the pre-eminence of Europe over the rest of the world) and 'Little Divergence' (leading to the pre-eminence of northern over southern Europe) will be adopted, but also critical views will be considered. The second part of the course will focus on more recent developments, from the collapse of global capitalism at the time of World War I, to the construction of a new international economy after World War II, concluding with the great expansion of the late twentieth century and the related consequences for inequality worldwide. The area covered will be the whole world, focusing on broad comparisons between macro-areas.

Detailed Description of Assessment Methods (FOR ATTENDING STUDENTS)

Assessment is based on two mandatory elements, plus one optional one:

- 1) a partial take-home assignment on the first part of the course and a partial written exam on the second part of the course. The first partial assignment will count for 25% of the final mark and the second partial for 40% of the final mark (tot **65%**)

OR

a written exam on the full program for attending students (**65%** of the final mark)

- 2) a written group project on a topic agreed upon with the instructor. The expected size of the groups will be defined during the course, depending on the number of attending students. Overall the project counts for **35%** of the final grade.

Either

25% for a short paper of about 10-15 pages, to be sent to the instructor by 27th April and 10% for a short PowerPoint presentation of the project to the class during the last week of the course.

Or

35% for a short paper of about 10-15 pages, to be sent to the instructor by 27th April
Students failing to submit their project will be considered by definition non-attending students.

- 3) (**optional**): a short descriptive report (max 2 pages, plus references) about the long-term development of a specific country or area of the world in the perspective of the Great Divergence and of the Globalization process (period to cover: 1500 or earlier – 1850 ca.). The report has to be submitted to the instructor by **22nd March**. Good-quality reports will add 0.5 points (out of 30) to the final mark, excellent reports will add 1 point, and poor reports will not alter the final mark.

Non Attending Students – Assessment is based on a final exam, which covers all textbooks, lecture notes, readings on the syllabus, and uploaded readings.

Office Hour: Monday 3:00-4:00 pm or by appointment. (Room: 3a2 fm01)

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for the course. Students who have never taken a course in economic history might wish to peruse a handbook or textbook in economic history (the Bocconi library has a wide selection of them). The instructor and the teaching assistant will be happy to provide guidance if need be.

CLASS TIMETABLE

Monday 10/02/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	Introduction: about the concepts of Globalization, Divergence and Inequality slides on LS
Tuesday 11/02/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	At the origins of diverge: Eurasia vs the rest Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs and Steel</i> , chapters 5, 6 and 10; slides on LS
Monday 17/02/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	The Great Divergence 1 Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence</i> , Introduction, chapter 1, plus final paragraph of chapter 2 (“Conclusion to Part 1”); slides on LS
Tuesday 18/02/2020	14.30- 16.00	Room 22	The Great Divergence 2 Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence</i> , chapter 5; slides on LS
Monday 24/02/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 23	Globalization and Divergence Slides on LS
Tuesday 25/02/2020	14.30- 16.00	Room 22	The Little Divergence 1 slides on LS; additional material on LS
Monday 02/03/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 23	The Little Divergence 2 Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence</i> , Introduction to part II and chapter 3 (only pp. 114-127 and 152-165); slides on LS
Tuesday 03/03/2020	14.30- 16.00	Room 22	The sources of divergence: social-economic institutions, culture, and demography. slides on LS; additional material on LS
Friday 06/03/2020	8.45-10.15	Room 22	Preindustrial inequality 1: measuring inequality Milanovic, <i>Worlds Apart</i> , chapters 1 and 2; Alfani and Di Tullio, <i>The Lion’s Share</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 92-94); slides on LS
Monday 09/03/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 23	Preindustrial inequality 2: understanding inequality change and changes in inequality “extraction” Alfani and Di Tullio, <i>The Lion’s Share</i> , Introduction and Chapter 3; slides on LS; additional material on LS
Tuesday 10/03/2020	14.30- 16.00	Room 22	Preindustrial inequality 3: the long-term determinants of inequality change Alfani and Di Tullio, <i>The Lion’s Share</i> , Chapter 4 ; slides on LS
Friday 13/03/2020	8.45-10.15	Room 22	Review session, Q&A of content so far
Take Home Assignment – 17th March			

Monday 23/03/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	The Industrial Revolution and the Great Divergence Europe and Asia compared, before and after the Industrial Revolution 1 Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence</i> , chapter 6; Slides on LS; additional material on LS
Tuesday 24/03/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	The Industrial Revolution and the Great Divergence Europe and Asia compared, before and after the Industrial Revolution 2 Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence</i> , chapter 6; Slides on LS; additional material on LS
Monday 30/03/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	World War I: the collapse of the established order. World War II: the birth of a new international economy Slides on LS
Tuesday 31/03/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	The deepening of inequalities across the world Milanovic, <i>Worlds Apart</i> , chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7; slides on LS
Monday 06/04/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	Staying behind: the case of Africa 1 Slides on LS; additional material on LS
Tuesday 07/04/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	Staying behind: the case of Africa 2 Slides on LS; additional material on LS
Monday 20/04/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	Recent developments in international and global economic inequality 1 Milanovic, <i>Worlds Apart</i> , chapters 11 and 12
Tuesday 21/04/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	Recent developments in international and global economic inequality 2 slides on LS; Milanovic, <i>Global Inequality</i> , chapter 1 & 5
Monday 27/04/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	Recent developments in international and global economic inequality 3 slides on LS; Milanovic, <i>Global Inequality</i> , chapter 1 & 5
Tuesday 28/04/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	Presentation of group projects in class
Monday 04/05/2020	16.15- 17.45	Room 23	Presentation of group projects in class
Tuesday 05/05/2020	12.30- 14.00	Room 22	Presentation of group projects in class
2nd Partial exam: 25 May 2020, 16.30; (room to be confirmed)			

Textbooks and materials for attending students:

J. Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, Norton 1997 (three short chapters only: 5, 6 and 10. Available in Course Reserve).

K. Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press 2005 (Introduction and chapters 1, 3, 5, 6).

G. Alfani, M. Di Tullio, *The Lion's Share. Inequality and Rise of the Fiscal State in preindustrial Europe*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2019 (Introduction and chapters 3, 4).

B. Milanovic, *Worlds Apart: Measuring International and Global Inequality*, Princeton: Princeton University Press 2005 (chapters 1-2, 4-7; 11-12).

Additional material provided by the Instructor, including slides uploaded in the Learning Space (LS). Important: unless specified otherwise, all the articles which will be uploaded by the Instructor in the learning space have to be considered compulsory readings for the course. Complete lists of this additional material will be provided before each partial exam.

HONOR CODE

Università Bocconi conceives of education as an ongoing process that stretches across a person's entire professional life. The University hopes that the entire Bocconi community will respect the values of fairness and correctness associated with it, values which inspire and guide the conduct of all community members as they pursue common objectives and a shared mission. The Università Bocconi Honor Code is published at <http://www.unibocconi.eu/honorcode>. We encourage all students to read it.