



Lecture Introduction to Economic History

(Course 10 006 VWL Wirtschaftsgeschichte)

Course Description:

The lecture gives an overview over several methods in economics and in economic history. It also provides applications with a rigorously quantitative approach. Students will analyse the development of economic aggregates, hereby taking into account the historical background. The period discussed in this lecture spans from around 1815 until recent history (the 1990s). The focus is mainly on Germany excluding Austria, international aspects are treated whatsoever.

Syllabus:

Lecture 1: Historical Demography

This Lecture discusses the development of population “pyramids” and introduces concepts and methods of historical demography in a quantitative approach: life expectancy, fertility and fertility rates, birth rates, net reproduction rates etc.

Lecture 2: Employment

In this lecture the theory and the measurement of employment are treated. Focus is also on its definition and the development of employment over time, assessing historical trends and their impact for future development

Lecture 3: The capital stock

This lecture gives an overview over the definition of the capital stock. The aim of this lecture is to gain an insight into the historical development during the last two centuries which is supported quantitatively in order to straighten out myths about post-war(s) Germany.

Lecture 4: The National Product

This lecture deals with the measurement of the national product and its components. It also presents different theories of business cycles (Juglar, Kitchin, Konradieff, Schumpeter) and growth (cycles).

Lecture 5: Productivity and Growth

This lecture introduces the concept of growth theory by employing a simple model - Solow Residual.



Lecture 6: Distributional Conflicts

This lecture discusses the opposing positions of wages as a market price and instrument of power. The equilibrium outcomes of “free” and regulated labor markets are compared in a partial framework. Subsequently, the labour market regulations in the German states are presented as well as the secular trends of the wage quota / labour share.

Lecture 7: The State and Money

This section deals with monetary standards in Germany, the Gold / Bimetallic / Silver standard, the composition of public expenditures, war financing and hyperinflation during the early 1920s. The development of prices during the period of interest are covered as well as public debt in an international comparison. An outline of fiscal policy and the fiscal constitutions of the German Reich and the German States is given.

Literature

Introductory Reading:

Spree, R. (Hrsg.): *Geschichte der deutschen Wirtschaft im 20. Jhd*, München Beck 2001.

Textbooks:

Borchardt, Knut(1978): *Grundriss der deutschen Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Buchheim, C.(1997): *Einführung in die Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, München, Beck.

Walter, R.(2000): *Wirtschaftsgeschichte. Vom Merkantilismus bis zur Gegenwart*, Köln: Böhlau

Handbooks:

- Aubin, H.; Zorn, W.(1976): *Handbuch der dt. Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte*, bes. Band 2, Stuttgart, Klett Verlag

Specific Reading:

Demographic History:

Köllmann, W.(1998), *Bevölkerung in der Industriellen Revolution*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Marschack, P.(1984): *Bevölkerungsgeschichte Deutschlands im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert*, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp Verlag.



Ehmer, J. (2004), *Bevölkerungsgeschichte und Historische Demographie 1800–2000*, München: Oldenbourg Verlag

Historical social- and business statistics:

Fischer, W.; J. Krenzel, J. Wietog (1982): *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch I – Materialien zur Statistik des Dt. Bundes 1815 – 1870*, Verlag C. H. Beck München.

Hohorst, G.; Kocka, J.; G. A. Ritter (1978): *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch II – Materialien zur Statistik des Kaiserreichs 1870 – 1914*, Verlag C. H. Beck München.

Petzina, D.; Abelshauser, W.; Faust, A.(1978): *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch III – Materialien zur Statistik des Deutschen Reiches 1914 – 1945*, Verlag C. H. Beck München.

Rytlewski, R.; Opp de Hippt, M.(1987): *Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Zahlen*, Verlag C. H. Beck München

Rytlewski, R.; Opp de Hippt, M.(1987): *Die Deutsche Demokratische Republik in Zahlen*, Verlag C. H. Beck.

Current official social- and business statistics:

a) Up to 1941/42:

Statistisches Reichsamt, *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich*, bis auf Kriegsjahrgänge jährlich

b) Up to 1990 (GDR)

Statistisches Amt der DDR, *Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR*, seit 1950 jährlich

c) For FRG up to 1990

Statistisches Bundesamt, *Statistisches Jahrbuch für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, seit 1950 jährlich