To: Christoph Zeller, CEP Chair; Dean Karen Campbell  
From: David Carlton, Director of the Joint Major in Economics and History  
Re: The addition of two new core courses  
Date: April 18, 2016

RATIONALE

In the past few years, thanks to retirements and departures, we have frequently had difficulty in providing a full slate of course offerings in the Economic History Core requirement of the Joint Major in Economics and History. Furthermore, I have encouraged my colleagues in the Department of History to develop courses that will help diversify the Core offerings beyond its traditional, parochial concentration on the United States and Europe, and bring in currently exciting new fields such as the New History of Capitalism. I have approved, with the assent of the Director of Graduate Studies in History, the following two new courses for the Core. Both of these courses have been approved for History credit by the CEP.


HIST 2138 Blood Diamonds, Blood Oil, Commodities, and Conflicts in Africa. 1870s to the present. Role of diamonds, gold, rubber, and oil in the resulting conflicts in modern Africa. Multinationals, mineral extraction, and politics. Poverty, war, child labor, and corruption. Local and international mining and mineral syndicates. Implications for Africans and their livelihoods. [3] (INT)

As you can see, one of these courses explores an important dimension of economic history in modern Africa, an underserved region in the current curriculum. The other course will be taught by James G. Stahlman Professor Jefferson Cowie, a leading figure in the New History of Capitalism who will be teaching a similar course for us in the Spring Term (one long since approved for the catalog. We would like the course numbers accurately listed on the Economics-History major page for the 2016-17 catalog.

MARKED UP CATALOG PAGE

Economics and History

NOTE: New course numbers took effect in fall 2015. Former course numbers are included in course descriptions in this catalog and at this website: registrar.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/course-renumbering/course-lookup/.

The joint major in economics and history makes an important contribution to liberal education at Vanderbilt by helping students understand the origins and organization of modern society. It also provides a unique preparation for careers in business, the professions, and other fields by combining all the analytical tools of the regular economics major with history’s emphasis on clear and effective writing and on developing skills in
gathering, assessing, and synthesizing information. The program consists of 45 credit hours of course work: 9 credit hours in an economic history core, and an additional 18 credit hours in economics and 18 in history. Students declare their major through the Department of History office.

Note: All students must have at least one semester of calculus; two are strongly recommended for the economics component. Calculus is a prerequisite for ECON 1500, 1510, 3010, and 3020, which are required for the major. It is also a prerequisite for all economics courses numbered above 3000.

Course work for the major is distributed as follows:

**Economic History Core (9 credit hours)**

Three of the following courses, one of which must be an economics course above 3000:

HIST 1600, 1640, 1660, 1665, 2138, 2660, 3075, 3190, 3200, ECON 2150, 3150, 3160. **Note:** ECON 3010 is a prerequisite for ECON 3150, and 3160.

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