SYLLABUS

**Tutor:**

Anastasia Litina  
Homepage: [http://natlitina.webs.com](http://natlitina.webs.com)

Lecturer  
Department of Economics  
University of Ioannina  
Greece

Extramural Research Fellow  
University of Luxembourg  
Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance  
Luxembourg

Email: alitina.uoi@gmail.com

**Course Description:**

The aim of the course is three-fold:

First, it aims to expose students to a novel field of economics, i.e., that of cultural economics. We will identify several factors beyond the standard economic factors that cast a long-shadow on current economic outcomes. Topics include the role of geography, religion, genetic diversity, interpersonal trust, inequality, family ties, institutions and several other topics.

The second objective of the course is to familiarize students with the process of “reading” and comprehending a research paper. We will learn how a paper is structured, how we isolate the main research question, how to interpret the findings of the research paper and how to start thinking about the mechanism operating behind the results of a paper.

The third objective is to expose the recent wealth of historical and cultural data that are nowadays abundant and that allow for the study of diverse topics. We will go through a list of micro (individual) level data and macro (aggregate) level data. A list of sources will be illustrated and we will see how we can work with online modules to obtain in a simple and quick way data that can support any presentation or brief policy report. This data can be used for any purpose beyond research papers to highlight and uncover the impact of culture on modern economies and entrepreneurship.

We will be exposed to several layers of analysis, i.e., we will study the impact of culture on individuals, firms and even countries.
**Structure of the Course:**

**Day 1:**

-An introduction to the literature of cultural economics

* Review Paper: Spolaore and Wacziarg 2013, How deep are the roots of economic development? *Journal of Economic Literature*


* Review Paper: Nunn 2014, Historical Development *Handbook of Economic Growth*

An introduction to reading a research paper (Structure of a research paper)

-An introduction to research papers in the field of economics

* REPEC

* Google Scholar

* Econlit

**Day 2:**

-Geography and Comparative Development


**Day 3:**

-Genetic Diversity and Comparative Development


**Day 4:**

- Dimensions of Culture

Gender:


**Day 5:**

- Presentation of Data Sources-Online Use of Data--Discussion about Measurement Issues

- WVS (World Values Survey)
- ESS (European Social Survey)
- WBI (World Bank Indicators)
- WGI (World Governance Indicators)

Extensive Reading

1. Introductory

Review Paper: Spolaore and Wacziarg 2013, How deep are the roots of economic development? *Journal of Economic Literature*


Review Paper: Nunn 2014, Historical Development *Handbook of Economic Growth*

2. Geography

Review Paper: Dell, Jones and Olken 2014, What do we learn from the weather? The new climate-economy literature. *Journal of Economic Literature*


Chaney 2013, Revolt on the Nile: Economic Shocks, Religion and Political Power. *Econometrica*


3. **Institutions**


4. **Culture**


Review Paper: Iyer 2015 The New Economics of Religion *Journal of Economic Literature*


Miguel and Fisman 2007 Corruption, norms and legal enforcement: evidence from diplomatic parking tickets *Journal of Political Economy*


5. **Genetics**


Cook, C. Justin, 2013a. The Long Run Health Effects of the Neolithic Revolution: The Natural Selection of Infectious Disease Resistance Yale University, Mimeo.


Delis et al, 2016, The Effect of Board Directors from Countries with Different Genetic Diversity Levels on Corporate Performance


6. **Technical Progress**

7. **Religion**


8. **Language**


9. **Inequality**


10. **Assimilation-Integration**


