

**Farewell to Econ 354**

**Greg Dow**

**Friday, April 8, 2022**

I started teaching this course in 1998 and have taught it 17 times. This is the last time. I am retiring at the end of April.

This has been one of my favorite courses to teach. I like starting with real life and constructing models that might explain what is going on, rather than just teaching theory in an abstract way. I have also taught conventional micro theory courses (201, 302, etc.) and they aren't as much fun.

The course had a large impact on my research. Using Johnson and Earle made me wonder about how economists could explain the origins of agriculture, inequality, warfare, and the state.

I started working on these topics with an economic historian named Clyde Reed around 2003. Together we have published 6 journal articles on economic prehistory, now working on a 7th, and we have a book coming out in September.

I plan to continue doing research after retiring from teaching. One new project is a collaboration with Louis Putterman on the origins of political democracy.

I hope in addition to learning about specific societies and some concepts from economic theory, you have seen how economics can be applied to a wide range of topics, and learned something about how real social science research is done (it's not like what you see in most textbooks).

I have been a professional economist for 42 years. I hope you all find careers you enjoy as much as I have enjoyed being an economist. Thanks for taking the course.