

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

THE PETER J. TOBIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Economics
Undergraduate Division

SYLLABUS

Economic History of the Western Community
ECO 1326

Spring 2010

Professor Cameron M. Weber
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DEPARTMENT

Economics and Finance

COURSE NAME

Economic History of the Western Community

COURSE NUMBER

ECO 1326

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of socio-economic formations and changes in the organization of economies over time. Special focus on the Industrial Revolution and the diffusion of technological knowledge in newly-industrializing countries; the role of trade in economic growth; and the two-way relationship between population changes and economic change.

CREDIT

3 Credits

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

1. To understand and appreciate the process of historical change, and the emergence and development of different economic organizations, in order to become aware of their implications for social and economic organization in different parts of the world. Although the major focus of the course is the "western" economic system, comparisons with Eastern European and Asian developments are also made. (This objective meets the need for a global perspective.)
2. In particular, to describe the development of a capitalist economic system in order to provide the real life background for the application of modern economic theory and analysis. (This objective meets the needs for critical thinking and analysis.)
3. To develop the comprehension and communication skills associated with logical reasoning, by analyzing the causes and effects of historical developments, and reporting on them. (This objective meets the needs for analytical thinking and communications skills.)

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE (continued)

4. To appreciate the interactions and complexity of different socio-economic formations, and to become aware of the continuing evolution of present economic arrangements by understanding past developments. (This objective meets the needs for developing the ability to recognize change, and to apply a values orientation.)

COURSE SCHEDULE

TOPICS

READINGS

I. Precapitalist Economies

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| 1. Introduction to Economic History
Definitions and Concepts | Ch. 1 |
| 2. Feudalism and the Manorial System
Economic organization in the Roman Empire;
emergence of feudalism; trade and towns in the late
feudal period; Italian banking | Ch. 2, 3 |
| 3. Non-Western Economies on Eve of Western
Expansionism; post-Roman empires, Africa,
Latin America, Asia | Ch. 4 |

II. The Transition Period

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| 4. Agriculture and the Agricultural Revolution
Enclosure and land redistribution in England;
technological changes; impact on rural societies | Ch. 5 |
| 5. Mercantilism: state and economy building
Early policy-making; mercantilist philosophy;
expansion of trade and colonization | Ch. 6 |

III. The Industrial Revolution

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| 6. Industrialization in Britain
Importance of transportation; textile industry;
rail building; free trade and laissez-faire | Ch. 7, 8, 11 |
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| 7. Industrialization in France, Germany, Rest of Europe
Contrasting patterns of industrialization; political implications and German unification | Ch. 9, 10, 11 |
| 8. Industrialization in the United States
Importance of resource endowment; impact on slavery in the South; mass production; importance of immigration | Ch. 9, 11 |

IV. Development of a Global Economy

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| 9. Characteristics of capitalism
Factory system; urbanization; resistance to industrialization; development of the corporate structure; unionization; financial markets | Ch. 12,13 |
| 10. Imperialism
Trade rivalry; imperialist colonization; gold standard | Ch. 12, 13 |
| 11. Disintegration of the International Economy
World War I; retreat to isolationism; rise of German militarism; Great Depression | Ch. 14 and supplementary material |
| 12. Integration of the International Economy
World War II; post war reconstruction; European integration; macroeconomic policymaking; Bretton Woods International Payments System | Ch. 15 |
| 13. Twenty-First Century Economy
Collapse of USSR, evolution of EU, India and China
Financial crisis of 2007-2009 | Ch. 16 and supplementary material |

FINAL EXAM

Assigned Readings	30 Hours
Examination Preparation	25 Hours
Paper or Group Project	30 Hours
Review & Preparation for class	15 Hours

GRADING SCHEDULE

Evaluation of student performance is based on a combination of assignments, written, oral objective, and essays, in order to provide students with as comprehensive a base for assessment as possible.

Midterm Exam	30%
In-Class Quizzes	10%
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation	10%
Paper or Group Project	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Quiz I: February 4, 2010

Midterm Examination: February 25, 2010

Quiz II: April 1, 2010

Papers due (first draft) or Presentations due: April 15, 2010

Final Papers due: April 29, 2010

Final: May 6, 2010, or as scheduled

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Main text

Rondo Cameron and Larry Neal, *A Concise Economic History of the World*, Oxford University Press, 4th ed., 2003 (or any edition).

Lecture notes, available cameroneconomics.com, “teaching” page.

Optional Texts

F.A. Hayek, *Capitalism and the Historians*, University of Chicago [1954], any edition.

Cameron Weber, *Economics for Everyone*, Unlimited Publishing, 2007.

Other Optional References

Economic History

Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th to 18th Centuries*, (3 vols.), Harper & Row, 1979.

Ron Charnow, *House of Morgan*, Atlantic Monthly Press, 1990.

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World*, Penguin Press, 2008.

David Galenson, *Markets in History*, Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Alexander Gershenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*, Praeger, 1965

Robert L. Heilbroner and Will Milberg, *The Making of Economic Society*, (any edition, 12th Edition 2007 paperback), Prentice Hall.

E.K. Hunt, *Property and Prophets*, (any edition, [1975]), Halper & Row.

Charles Kindleberger, *A Financial History of Western Europe*, (any edition, 2nd edition 1993), Oxford University Press.

J.M Keynes, *Consequences of the Peace*, (any edition), 1918, available <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/15776>.

Douglass North and Robert Paul Thomas, *The Rise of the Western World: A New Economic History*, Cambridge University Press, 1973 (reprinted).

Uriel Procaccia, *Russian Culture, Property Rights, and the Market Economy*, Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Nathan Rosenberg and L.E. Birdzell, *How the West Grew Rich: The Economic Transformation Of The Industrial World*, Basic Books, 1986.

Vera Smith, *The Rationale for Central Banking and the Free Banking Alternative*, 1934, reprinted by Liberty Fund, available

<http://www.econlib.org/library/LFBooks/SmithV/smvRCB.html>.

Works of Fiction and Film

Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, 1853 (any edition), available, <http://www.worldwideschool.org/library/books/lit/charlesdickens/BleakHouse/Chap0.html>.

Leo Tolstoy. “How Much Land Does a Man Need” (short story), 1886, any edition, available, <http://www.katinkahesselink.net/other/tolstoy.html>.

There Will Be Blood (film), 2007, directed, written and produced by Paul Thomas Anderson.

Marie Antoinette (film), 2006, written and directed by Sofia Coppola.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (film), 2005, directed by Tim Burton.

History, Economics and Political Economy

Jeffrey Freidman, editor, *Critical Review*, Vol. 21/2-3, special edition on “Causes of the Crisis”, 2009.

Freidrich A. von Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, Routledge, 1944.

Eric J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848*, New American Library, 1962 (reprinted).

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, 1848, available <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>.

David Ricardo, *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, 1817, available, <http://www.econlib.org/library/Ricardo/ricP.html>.

Lawrence W. Reed, "Great Myths of the Great Depression", pamphlet, 2008, available, <http://www.mackinac.org/article.aspx?ID=4013>.

Murray N. Rothbard, *An Austrian Perspective on the History of Economic Thought* (2 volumes), Edward Elgar, 1995 (reprinted).

Joseph A. Schumpeter, *The Theory of Economic Development*, Harvard University, 1934 (reprinted).

William H. Sewell, *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*, University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, 1776, available, <http://www.bibliomania.com/2/1/65/112/frameset.html>.

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, Vintage Books, 1963 (reprinted).

Thorstein Veblen, "Why is Economics not an Evolutionary Science", 1898, available, <http://prof.mt.tama.hosei.ac.jp/~hhirano/academia/econom.htm>.

Thorstein Veblen, *Absentee Ownership in America*, 1923, (reprinted).