

ECON345: Economic History of Europe, 500-1914: 'A Very Long Run'

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Office Hours: Leacock Building Room 441, Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am, or by prior appointment

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Course classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05-5:25 (BIRKS 203)

Pre-requisites: ECON 208 and ECON 209, or MGCR 293 and ECON 295, or ECON 230D1/D2, or ECON 250D1/D2

Brief Description: The course surveys the economic development of Europe in a very long run, since the fall of the Roman Empire (and Roman economy) until the outbreak of WWI. A particular emphasis is placed on demographic changes, monetary aspects (coinage, prices and wages), agricultural developments, the process of urbanization, international commerce and the Industrial Revolution.

Please note: the written work can be submitted in either English or French.

GRADE BREAKDOWN: (a) Mid-term (40%)

(b) Problem assignment (2x10%=20%)

(c) Final take-home essay (40%) (**Please note:** the final take-home essay will be distributed on Tuesday 7 April [the last class]; the absolute deadline for the submission is Tuesday 14 April by 5PM --- *NO ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE!!!*)

Course Structure

1. Introduction

Week 1 (4 January) – Introductory remarks: Why economic history? In a (*very*) long run!

(6 January) – Historical Introduction: Europe in the Middle Ages, c.500-1500

Week 2 (11 and 13 January) – Historical Introduction: Europe, c.1500-1914

2. Macroeconomic changes in a very long run

Week 3 (18 and 20 January) – Macroeconomic changes: ecology and environment in a very long run

Week 4 (25 and 27 January) - Macroeconomic changes: demography and population in a very long run

Week 5 (1 and 3 February) – Macroeconomic changes: money, prices and wages in a very long run

3. Microeconomic changes in a very long run

Week 6 (8 and 10 February) – European agriculture in a very long run, c.500-1900 (I)

Week 7 (15 February) – European agriculture in a very long run, c.500-1900 (II); pre-mid-term session (17 February) – Mid-term exam (covering weeks 2-5 only)

***No classes between 20 and 26 February: Winter Break**

Week 8 (1 and 3 March) – European urbanization in a very long run, c.500-1900

Please note: on 3 March, the *FIRST* problem assignment will be distributed, to be handed in *before or on* 8 March

Week 9 (8 and 10 March) – International commerce in the Middle Ages, c.500-1500

Week 10 (15 and 17 March) – International commerce in modern Europe, c.1500-1914

Week 11 (22 March) – Banking and finance: between prosperity and crisis, c.1200-1907

(24 March) – Industrial Revolution, c.1750-1914: Technology

Please note: on 24 March, the *SECOND* problem assignment will be distributed, to be handed in *before or on* 28 March

***Please note: There are no classes on 29 and 31 March**

Week 12 (5 and 7 April) –The Industrial Revolution, c.1750-1914: Economy

Recommended Readings (General Surveys)

Thomas Noble et al., *Western Civilization: Beyond Boundaries* (2008)

Carlo M. Cipolla, *Before the Industrial Revolution: European Society and Economy, 1000-1700* (Routledge, 1993)

François Crouzet, *A History of the European Economy, 1000-2000* (Charlottesville, 2001)

Karl Gunnar Persson, *An Economic History of Europe. Knowledge, Institutions and Growth, 600 to the Present* (Cambridge, 2010)

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY:

- (1) Prof. John Munro's personal website (University of Toronto). This website contains *vast* source material and bibliography on various topics related to medieval economic history: <http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/>
- (2) 'Global Price and Income History Group' (an international consolidated research group): an excellent database of prices and wages, c.1200-2000 from all over the world: <http://gpih.ucdavis.edu/>

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is most serious academic offence, meaning copying one or more passages from a published work without acknowledging that one's presentation is a direct quotation, literally or nearly word-by-word. In other words, plagiarism is *intellectual theft*, subject to appropriate penalty. The most common form of plagiarism is copying texts from web-pages. Plagiarism from any source, or in any manifestation, will not be tolerated. It should also be born in mind that nowadays it is relatively easy to detect both cases and sources of plagiarism, with the assistance of numerous online programmes, such as *Turnitin*. The offender will automatically receive a failing grade and his name will be turned to the Dean's office, in accordance with the formal procedures determined by the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (for more information, consult the following website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/>).