

ECON344: Industrial Revolution and Economic Development: Europe, 1700-1914

Instructor: Philip Slavin (philip.slavin@mcgill.ca)

Office Hours: Leacock Building Room 441, Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00am, or by prior appointment

Office Phone: 514-398-4400, ext. #09169

Course classes: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:35-9:55 (LEACOCK 109)

Pre-requisites: ECON208 and 209

Brief Description: The course surveys the economic development of Europe since the 18th century until the outbreak of WWI in 1914. The core and focus of the course is the Industrial Revolution, arguably, the single most important achievement before the 20th century. Since England (or Great Britain) can be regarded as the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, its economy will be the main focus of this course. The main topics include, but are not limited to, technological innovations, demographic growth, agricultural achievements, revolutions in transportation systems, and international trade.

Please note: the written work can be submitted in either English or French (or any other language read by the instructor).

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

(c) Final take-home essay (60%) (**Please note:** the final take-home essay will be distributed on Wednesday 1 April [the last class]; the *absolute deadline* for the submission is Thursday 12 April by 5PM --- **NO ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE!!!**)

Course Structure

1. Introduction

Week 1 (7 January): Introductory remarks; why study economic history?; a brief survey of key-concepts of economic history of Europe, 1750-1914

(9 January): A brief survey of European history, 1750-1914

Week 2 (14 January): Industrial Revolution: What's in a Name?

(16 January): Revolutionary economic thinkers: Smith, Malthus and Marx

Week 3 (21 January): On the Eve of the Revolution: Dutch economic supremacy, c.1600-1700 (I)

(23 January): On the Eve of the Revolution: Dutch economic decline, c.1700-1800 (II)

2. Great Britain as the Cradle of the Industrial Revolution

Week 4 (28 January): The Demographic (Vital) Revolution in Great Britain, 1650-1914 (I): facts and figures

(30 January): The Demographic (Vital) Revolution in Great Britain, 1650-1914 (II): theory

Week 5 (4 February): The Commercial Revolution in Great Britain, 1700-1815

(6 February): The Commercial Revolution in Great Britain, 1815-1914: from Protectionism to Free Trade

Week 6 (11 and 13 February): The Agricultural Revolution in Great Britain, 1650-1914

Week 7 (18 February): pre-mid-term session (questions, tips, clarification)

(20 February): mid-term-exam (covering weeks 2-5)

Week 8 (25 February): The Technological Revolution in Great Britain (I): engines

(27 February): The Technological Revolution in Great Britain (II): transportation

- 4 and 6 March: NO CLASSES – WINTER BREAK (AKA, 'THE READING WEEK')

3. 'Enough of Great Britain': The Industrial Revolution and economy on the Continental Europe

Week 9 (11 and 13 March): Economy and industrialization in France, 1789-1914

Week 10 (18 and 20 March): Economy and (late) industrialization in Germany, 1800-1914

Week 11 (25 and 27 March): Economy and (very late and VEEERRRRYYY SLOOOOWWW) industrialization of Russia, 1800-1914

Week 12 (1 April): Overview and Concluding Remarks

Recommended Readings (General Surveys)

Please note that there are no mandatory readings in this class; all the information for discussion, questions, exams, etc. is based on the lecture notes. However, since the lectures cannot possibly cover all the essential topics connected to the course, you are warmly encouraged by me to read some of the suggested readings below. These are general introductory books of truly excellent scholarly quality. In addition, I will be happy to provide further reading recommendations, in according with your individual interest.

Franklin Ford, *Europe, 1780-1830* (1989)

Harry Header, *Europe in the Nineteenth Century, 1830-1880* (1988)

J.M. Roberts, *Europe, 1880-1945* (1989)

Joel Mokyr (ed.), *The Economics of the Industrial Revolution* (1985)

Roderick Floud and Donald McCloskey (eds.), *The Economic History of Britain Since 1700* (1994)

Alan S. Milward and S.B. Saul, *The Economic Development of Continental Europe, 1780-1870* (1979)

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/>).

A Note on Texting

Texting (aka, 'text messaging), using *any portable device* will be seen as lack of respect towards both professor and fellow students and, as such, will not be tolerated in class. Please, **AVOID TEXTING DURING THE CLASS.**