

ECON341: Economic History of a World Area (Europe, 500-1914: 'A Very Long Run')

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

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

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Course classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:55 (BIRKS 205)

Pre-requisites: ECON 208 and ECON 209

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 (or any other language read by the instructor).

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

(b) Final take-home essay (60%) (**Please note:** the final take-home essay will be distributed on Tuesday 2 April [the last class]; the absolute deadline for the submission is Friday 12 April by 5PM --- *NO ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE!!!*)

Course Structure

1. Introduction

Week 1 (8 January) – Introductory remarks: Why economic history? In a (very) long run!
(10 January) - Historical Introduction: (1) Europe in the Middle Ages, c.500-1500

Week 2 (15 January) - Historical Introduction: (2) Europe in the early Modern Period, c.1500-1750
(17 January) - (3) Europe in the modern age, c.1750-1914

2. Macroeconomic changes in a very long run

Week 3 (22 and 24 January) – Macroeconomic changes: ecology and environment in a very long run

Week 4 (29 and 31 January) - Macroeconomic changes: demography and population in a very long run

Week 5 (5 and 7 February) – Macroeconomic changes: money, prices and wages in a very long run

3. Microeconomic changes in a very long run

Week 6 (12 and 14 February) – European agriculture in a very long run, c.500-1900 (I)

Week 7 (19 February) – European agriculture in a very long run, c.500-1900 (II)
(21 February) – European agriculture in a very long run, c.500-1900 (III)

Week 8 (26 February) – Pre-midterm session (questions, tips, clarifications)
(28 February) – Mid-term exam (covering weeks 3-7 only)

- Please note: there are no classes on 5 and 7 March (WINTER, AKA READING WEEK)

Week 9 (12 and 14 March) – International commerce in the Middle Ages, c.500-1500

Week 10 (19 and 21 March) – International commerce in modern Europe, c.1500-1914

Week 11 (26 March) – The Industrial Revolution, c.1750-1914 (I): Technology
(28 March) - The Industrial Revolution, c.1750-1914 (II): Economy

Week 12 (2 April) – Concluding remarks; pre-final essay tips

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/>).

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**.