

ECON345: Economic History of Europe, 1800-1914

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

Office Hours: Leacock Building Room 441, Tuesdays, 9:00-11:00am, or by prior appointment

Office Phone: 514-398-4400 x 09169

Course classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05-5:25 (BURNS 1B24)

Pre-requisites: ECON208 and 209

Brief Description: The course surveys the economic development of Europe since the early 19th until the outbreak of WWI in 1914. The core and focus of the course is the impact of the Industrial Revolution, arguably, the single most important achievement before the 20th century, on the new socio-economic reality in Europe. Because of the limited scope of the course, the main emphasis will be placed on four industrializing countries: the Great Britain [England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland] (the cradle of the Industrial Revolution), Germany, France and Russia. 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.

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

(b) Written assignment (1x20%=20%)

(c) Final take-home essay (40%) (**Please note:** the final take-home essay will be distributed on Thursday 12 April [the last class]; the absolute deadline for the submission is Friday 20 April by 5PM --- **NO ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE!!!**)

Course Structure

1. Introduction

Week 1 (10 January): Introductory remarks; why study economic history?; a brief survey of key-concepts of economic history of Europe, 1800-1914

(12 January): A brief survey of European history, 1800-1914

Week 2 (17 January): Approaches to economic history (I): Adam Smith

(19 January): Approaches to economic history (II): Thomas Malthus

Week 3 (24 January): Approaches to economic history (III): Karl Marx

(26 January): The Industrial Revolution (I): religion and education

Week 4 (31 January): The Industrial Revolution (II): technology

(2 February): The Industrial Revolution (III): transportation

2. Society

Week 5 (7 February): Population and demographic trends in Europe, c.1750-1920 (I): facts and figures

(9 February): Population and demographic trends in Europe, c.1750-1920 (II): theory

3. International commerce

Week 6 (14 February): The role of Great Britain in international trade, c.1800-1914

(16 February): International banking and finance: between prosperity and crisis: c.1800-1914

- 21 and 23 February: NO CLASSES – WINTER BREAK (AKA, 'THE READING WEEK')

Week 7 (28 February): pre-mid-term session (questions, tips, clarification)

(1 March): mid-term-exam (covering weeks 2 [Adam Smith]-5 [demography] only).

4. Industry

Week 8 (6 March): Industry economy in Great Britain

(8 March): Industry economy in France

Week 9 (13 March): Industry economy in Germany

(15 March): Industry economy in Russia

- Please note that on 15 March, the written assignment will be distributed in class, to be submitted back NO LATER than 22 March

5. Rural economy

Week 10 (20 March): British agriculture, c. 1800-1914

(22 March): The Great Irish Famine (*an Gorta Mór*) and its consequences, c.1840-60

- Please NOTE that there are *NO* classes on 27 and 29 March

Week 11 (3 April): French agriculture, c.1800-1914

(5 April): German agriculture, c. 1800-1914

Week 12 (10 April): Russian agriculture, c.1800-1917

(12 April): Wrapping up: conclusions and pre-final essay questions and tips

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 accordance 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/>).