

## ECONOMICS 201Y1

### The Economic History of Later-Medieval and Early-Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

#### SECOND TERM ESSAY TOPICS: January to April 2004

Second-term essays are due on Friday, 19 March 2004, except for part-time students and those who have obtained legitimate extensions. For part-time students (those enrolled in Woodsworth College or those certified by their College Registrar now to be part-time students), the due date is Friday, 2 April 2004, one week before the last day of classes.. This is the same deadline for those who have chosen to submit a third essay in lieu of the mid-year [January 2004] take-home test. No essays will be received after that day, according to the rules and regulations of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Please refer to the **Course Outline**, for further information on submitting the term essays and the deadlines. It is available on-line on my Home Page:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/201out.pdf>

**Be sure also to consult the handout entitled *Instructions on Writing Term Essays***, for instructions on and other information about preparing term essays. It is also available on-line, on my Home Page:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/ESSINSTR.pdf>

See also Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Waveland Press, Illinois, 2000).

**Special Instructions: Your essay must meet the following requirements, or else it will be rejected, unread and ungraded.**

1. **Your essay must be based upon one a topic chosen from one of the three following lists:**
  - A. **The Five Most Recommended Essay Topics:** with prepared bibliographies (long and short versions), which topics will appear, in some form, on the final examination.
  - B. **Other Topics from the Master List of Discussion Topics:** also with prepared bibliographies (long and short versions)
  - C. **Alternative Topics:**
    - (1) If you select a topic from this C list, you should seek my advice about the topic and my approval for the bibliography; but you must find your own bibliography first.
    - (2) If you decide to change and/or adapt the title from the one provided in the C-List, you must obtain my approval first for the amended topic.
2. **Your essay must contain footnotes *with pagination* (or endnotes, or citations within the text, similarly with page numbers); and an annotated bibliography, prepared according to the instructions in *Instructions on Writing Term Essays*.** If you submit a second term essay that is lacking in either proper footnotes, etc. and/or an annotated bibliography, you will receive a failing

grade for the essay, unless you submit the essay to me personally first, for approval; and if you do so, submitting an improper or incomplete essay, I will give the opportunity to revise it accordingly. Footnotes are preferable to endnotes, which in turn are preferable to in-text citations; but your grade will not be affected by the choice.

3. **Your essay must not be under the minimum or over the maximum word limits**, i.e., between about 2000 and 4500 words, without my written and signed permission; but I will almost certainly accept legitimate essays of 15 pages or more (i.e., within reason), if its extra length is the result of considerable research. If you use a word processor, use the word-count function and put the number of words on the title page of your essay.
  
4. **Your essay must be based upon a *minimum* of five published academic sources**, with the following stipulations to be carefully observed. Failure to observe these conditions may result in a failing grade; or at least, in the requirement that you revise and resubmit your essay.
  - a) i.e., journal articles, monographs, book-collection of essays, etc. Obviously, the five (or more) articles and/or essays provided in the package of readings (to be obtained from Scholar House Productions) constitute a valid part (or entirety) of the five required sources. You are not, however, required to use all or even any of the readings in the package, if the choice of your A or B topic does not pertain to these readings. You should, however, clearly explain in your bibliography, perhaps in the annotation, why you did not use the package of readings for the topic selected.
  
  - b) Excluded from this minimum of five sources are the following: textbooks, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, my lecture notes, CD-ROM collections, unpublished documents taken from the internet – including my Working Papers (as well as those of other scholars). You may, of course, use and cite these sources, but only *in addition to the five published academic sources*. In your bibliography, these sources should be listed separately, after the others, as *Supplementary Sources*.
  
  - c) Journal articles found on-line (e.g., by JSTOR) may be included within the minimum number of five sources, *provided that* these articles have already been published – i.e., are now in print.
  
  - d) If you use only the minimum number of five such sources, no more than two may be the same author. If you use more than five such published sources, you may, of course, cite other sources by the same author.
  
  - e) Please remember that the term *primary* sources refers to published documents or calendars of documents (i.e., lists of documents, often with a *précis* of the document) and published collections of statistical data; and the term *secondary* sources refers to published articles, essays, monographs, etc. in which historians and/or economists interpret documents and data. Do not, therefore, use these terms unless you have employed published documents and/or statistics.
  
  - f) You do not need to annotate citations of my lecture notes, web documents, or even textbooks. The *annotation rule* applies only to the sources listed in (a) above.
  
  - g) If you cite my lecture notes, provide both the exact title and the date of the lecture (and, ideally as well, the URL for the lecture notes).

- h) Before using and citing my Working Papers, check to see whether a published version of that paper exists. Obviously, it is much preferable to use the finally published version.
5. **You may not and must not use in your essay any table, graph, map or illustration that I have given you as a hand-out (including those contained within the published lectures);** nor may you include photo-copies of tables or graphs from secondary sources, not without my express permission. You may, however, include photocopies of maps and illustrations, etc. without such permission.
6. **If you do not submit your essay prepared on a word processor or typewriter,** you must write or hand-print the essay neatly, with double-spacing, writing on one side of the page only.
7. **Please append a title page to your essay, which must contain the following:**
- Your full name (SURNAME in capitals) and your university registration number
  - Your e-mail address and phone number: **most important!**
  - The course number and title of the course
  - The title of the essay and the topic number (in terms of the A, B, and C lists)
8. Otherwise your essay must conform with the other regulations set out in the *Instructions on Writing Term Essays*.

#### ESSAY TOPICS FOR THE SECOND TERM, January - April 2004:

##### A. MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS: from the Master List

Topics drawn from the Master List of Topics: See this list on my Home Page, as follows:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/201TUTOP.pdf>

6. The Population Problem and the Economic Development of Early-Modern Europe (1500 - 1640): Was there a 'Malthusian Trap'? [13]
7. The Era of the European 'Price Revolution', ca. 1540-1640: Inflation and Economic Growth, and the Hamilton Thesis on the Origins of 'Modern Industrial Capitalism' [14]
8. The 'Rise of the Gentry' Debate: On the Origins of Modern 'Agrarian Capitalism' [17]
9. The 'Rise of Capitalism' and The Protestant Reformations: the Weber-Tawney Theses on the 'Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,' 16th - 18th Centuries [15]
10. The 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century,' 1620-1740: The Hobsbawm Thesis on the Transition from 'Feudalism to Modern Capitalism' [20]

##### Notes and Explanations:

- (a) The numbers in square brackets refer to those on the Master List of topics. **Please refer to them for fuller information on the nature and scope of these debate topics, and why they should be interesting to both economists and historians (and indeed political scientists as well).**

- (b) For each of these topics there is a one-page handout with listings of the more important readings, chiefly recent periodical articles, and major questions. The more important readings are marked by asterisks: \* or \*\*. These short-form bibliographies are posted on my Home Page (web site): <http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/>
- (c) For each of these topics, and indeed for any of the topics in the Master List of 20 topics, I have supplied a complete and usually very lengthy bibliography, organized by sub-topics within this debate; and most of these bibliography sets also contain statistical tables. They are also available on my Home page, both in html and pdf formats. You are best advised to select the pdf format, especially for the statistical tables (long-format), which are sometimes unintelligible in the html format (which can eliminate columns or rows).
- (d) A set of readings, consisting of two articles for each of these five topics, will be made available for sale, in early January 2004, from:
- Scholar House Productions  
100 Harbord Street (at Spadina: Main Floor)  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1G6  
phone: (416) 977 - 9641  
fax: (416) 977 - 0147  
e-mail: [lynds@scholar-house.on.ca](mailto:lynds@scholar-house.on.ca) or [sales@scholar-house.on.ca](mailto:sales@scholar-house.on.ca)
- (e) These five lists contain the primary recommended readings for the course this term; and thus you are advised to read one or two of the readings from each of these lists, in addition to or in place of the textbooks.
- (f) **In some form or other, virtually all of these topics will appear on the final examination.** Hence the strong emphasis on doing at least some readings for each topic.
- (g) **In writing your essay, please do not try to cover the entire topic, since these are all ‘debate’ topics that cover wide-ranging issues, usually involving lengthy time-periods for a wide geographic range.** You should base your essay on one specific sub-topic, or narrow aspect, of the general topic that you have chosen; and you should normally try to confine yourself to one or two regions or countries; and, if possible, in a more restricted time-framework than that covered by the debate topic. But at least be sure that the essay is restricted to one specific and relatively narrow sub-topic, which may be more easily found in the following.

**B. OTHER AVAILABLE TOPICS FROM THE MASTER LIST:**

16. The Social Costs of Agricultural Modernization: The Tudor-Stuart Enclosure Movements in England, from ca. 1480 to ca. 1700
18. On the Industrial ‘Origins’ of the Industrial Revolution: The Nef Thesis on Industrial Change in Tudor-Stuart England, ca. 1540 - 1640
19. Social and Agrarian Changes in Early-Modern France: the Decline of Feudalism, Rural ‘Embourgeoisement’ and the Seigneurial Reaction, 1480 to 1789

21. Depopulation, Deflation, and Economic 'Crises' in 17th Century Europe
22. The 'Proto-Industrialization' Debate: The Mendels Thesis on Rural Handicraft Industries in Early Modern Europe and the Transition to Modern Urban Industrialization
23. The Economic Declines of Italy and Spain in the 17th Century: Aspects of the "General Crisis Era"?
24. Mercantilism: Money, Economic Nationalism, and the State in Early-Modern Europe
25. The Economic Decline of the Netherlands in the Eighteenth Century: Absolute or Relative?

**Notes:**

- a) If you finally decide that you do not want to do any of the above topics in section A -- i.e., topics nos. 13, 14, 15, 17, and 20, drawn from the Master List, you may indeed choose instead to select another other Second-Term topic provided in the Master List, i.e., to choose from the other seven topics not selected as the primary topics for the course this year, which are thus nos. 16, 18, 19, 21 - 25.
- b) Please note carefully that all of the preceding topics, nos.1 - 12 , were and are strictly reserved for the first term.
- c) For each of these topics, you can similarly find, on my Home Page (under 'Bibliographies'), both a short-format bibliography (one or two pages) listing the major readings and question; and a long-format bibliography, often very lengthy, with additional questions, statistical tables, graphs, maps, etc. They are available in both html and pdf formats; but again you are best advised to select the pdf format, especially for the statistical tables (long-format), which are sometimes unintelligible in the html format (which can eliminate columns or rows).
- d) Again, you should base your essay on some sub-topic, or narrow aspect, of the general topic that you have chosen; do not attempt to cover the entire debate topic. For sub-topics, refer to the full bibliography for the topic.
- e) There is no guarantee that the subject matter of these secondary (B category) topics will appear on the final examination.

**C. OTHER ALTERNATIVE ESSAY TOPICS:**

You may instead choose or adapt any of the following essay topics; but please note that prepared bibliographies are *not* available for any of these topics, though some related bibliographies may be available. Thus check the Master List for possibly related bibliographies. I should note that very rarely indeed do students choose any of these topics (for obvious reasons); and I see no need to provide a new alternative set, since this one is very inclusive of the topics considered in this course. You must construct your own bibliography, and then obtain my approval, for any of the following topics:

Do not choose a topic that is related to either your first term essay or to the question selected for the mid-term test.

1. The Behaviour of Wages during Periods of Inflation or Deflation (or both) in Early-modern Europe.
2. Wage-Controls in Early-modern England: did they work?
3. An Economic Analysis of Agricultural and Industrial Price Trends in Early-modern England.
4. The Italian and South German banking houses in the 16th Century: a comparison of their role in European financial capitalism and economic development.
5. The Decline of Antwerp and the Rise of Amsterdam, ca. 1540 - 1640: a comparison of their commercial-financial roles in Europe's economy.
6. Technical innovations in shipping and navigation during the era of European exploration and colonization, ca. 1450 - 1700.
7. The Dutch and English shipbuilding industries, 16th to 18th centuries: a comparison of technical and economic progress.
8. Warfare, Naval Power, and Economic Development in Early-Modern Europe.
9. The Overseas Commerce of France, 1600 - 1789
10. The changing role of the Baltic Sea region in the economic development of Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries.
11. 'Old' and 'New' Colonialism in English (or Dutch or French) overseas commercial expansion, ca. 1550 - 1750.
12. The Role of the African Slave Trade in the European economy, 1500 - 1815; or a Comparison of the British, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and French Roles in the Atlantic Slave Trade.
13. The Role of Silver in International Trade, 15th to 18th Centuries.
14. The Role of the State in Early-Modern Economic Development: A Case Study of Government Economic Policies in England, France, or the Netherlands. (Choose one, two, or three countries).
15. The Bank of England and the Wisselbank van Amsterdam in the late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: an Economic Comparison.
16. The Rise of English Banking: the Goldsmith banks, 1660 - 1720
17. The Decline of Spanish and Portuguese Economic Power ca. 1560 - ca. 1660: a comparative analysis.
18. *Colbertisme*: The Role of the French Government in Promoting Industrial Growth during the 17th and early 18th centuries.
19. The Economic and Social Problem of Poverty in Tudor-Stuart England: Causes and Remedies.
20. The Navigation Laws: Success or Failure in Promoting English Overseas Commerce and Industry, 1650 - 1800?

21. The North American and Caribbean colonies in the 18th century: Their Role in European Economic Conflicts, and their Importance for European Economic Development. (You may choose one or more of: England, France, the Netherlands, Spain).
22. Technological Innovations in European Agriculture, 16th to 18th Centuries: Their Impact on Agrarian and Economic Development.
23. The Origins and Development of the Joint-Stock Company in Western European Trade and Finance, 16th to 18th Centuries.
24. The National State and Taxation: a comparison of the tax burden in the economies of England, France, or the Netherlands in the 17th and 18th centuries. (Or choose two of these countries).
25. Financing England's National Debt, 1694 - 1753: Its Importance for English Economic Development and in the Evolution of Financial Institutions.
26. Financing the European Public Debts: the Role of *Rentes*, *Rentiers*, and Annuities in the Development of the European Financial System, 1500 - 1750.
27. The Role of the Textile Industries and Trade in English Commercial Expansion and Economic Development, 1450 - 1750.
28. The Origins of the European and English 'Cotton' Industries: 17th and 18th Centuries
29. The Importance of Africa to the European Economies, 1400 - 1750: Foreign Trade and Colonial 'Exploitation'
30. The Importance of India and the Indian Ocean basin for the European Economies, 1500 - 1750.
31. The Role of the Military Forces and Standing Armies in the Development of the West European Economies, 1450 - 1750.
32. The Development of Artillery and Fire-Arms in European Military Forces, 14th to 18th Centuries.
33. The Arts and Terror of Naval Warfare in Europe and Asia, 14th to 18th Centuries.
34. Problems of Capital Formation in the English (or European) Economy, 15th to 18th Centuries.
35. Excise Duties and Import Taxes: Fiscal or Mercantilist Policies in England (or France) during the 17th and 18th Centuries.