

ECO321Y1Y section L0101
Canadian Economic History since 1500
University of Toronto
2013-14

Fall Term Syllabus

Instructors

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Time and location

R10-1 • UC328
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1-3.

Lectures are typically two hours per week. The third hour will be used for presentations and tests.

Teaching assistants

TBA

Course objectives

The objective of the first half of this course is to apply economic theory and learn how to evaluate empirical evidence in order to gain a better understanding of why the country grew and developed the way it did, from the beginning of European contact until roughly 1850 (growth after 1850 is addressed in the second term). We will focus on interesting topics in early Canadian history as opposed to a strictly chronological approach. While most of our perspective will be Canadian, we will at times broaden our viewpoint in order to gain an understanding of Canada's relative experience. Apart from gaining knowledge of Canada's economic history, this course seeks to improve your ability to apply the tools of economics to a particular context and communicate effectively.

Prerequisites
Exclusions

ECO200Y1/ECO204Y1/ECO206Y1
ECO221Y1, ECO307H1, ECO323Y5
Note that some knowledge of statistics is beneficial.

Prerequisites are strictly checked and enforced and must be completed before taking a course. By taking this course you acknowledge that you will be removed from the course at any time if you do not meet all requirements set by the Department of Economics. For further information you can consult the 2012-2013

Academic Course Calendar.

Academic misconduct

Students should note that copying, plagiarizing, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. As a student it is your responsibility to ensure the integrity of your work and to understand what constitutes an academic offence. If you have any concerns that you may be crossing the line, always ask your instructor. Your instructor can explain, for example, the nuances of plagiarism and how to use secondary sources appropriately; he or she will also tell you what kinds of aids -- calculators, dictionaries, etc. -- are permitted in a test or exam. **Ignorance of the rules does not excuse cheating or plagiarism.** Any student caught engaging in such activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on the term paper, test or examination to dismissal from the university as outlined in the academic calendar. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

Communication

Blackboard: Lecture handouts, links to readings, announcements and marks will be available on blackboard. You are expected to consult it regularly. Topic summaries may be emailed to your utoronto address.

Email: I will endeavor to respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays. Please consult the course outline & course webpage before submitting your email inquiry. Include the course code in the subject of your message (ECO321) and use your utoronto email address. These practices will help ensure that your message does not get stuck in my spam filter and subsequently deleted. If I do not respond within 48 hours please re-send the message or contact me in class or office hours.

Readings

There is no required textbook. Articles will be assigned; links to the articles will be available on blackboard.

If you wish to consult a text, you may find the following useful: Norrie, K., D. Owrarn, and H. Emery. A History of the Canadian Economy. 4th edition. Toronto: Nelson -Thomson Canada, 2008.

Evaluation (1st term)

Three writing assignments	3 x 7% = 21 %
Three midterms	3 x 7% = 21 %
Presentation	4 %
Participation	4 %
Total (1 st term)	50 %

Important dates

Week	Date	Due dates
1	September 12	
2	September 19	
3	September 26	Assignment 1
4	October 3	Test 1
5	October 10	Assignment 2
6	October 17	
7	October 24	Assignment 3
8	October 31	Test 2
9	November 7	
10	November 14	Assignment 4
11	November 21	
12	November 28	Test 3

* students are required to complete 3 of 4 possible assignments.

Elements of Evaluation: descriptions and rules

1. Midterms

The midterms will be held during class time. They will be one hour in duration. They will consist of (mostly) short answer questions that will be drawn from the lectures and readings. Particular emphasis will be given to the topic handouts. Note that lectures will take place on test days.

Previous test questions will be circulated prior to the midterms.

Midterms will be accepted for re-reading for only one week after it is returned. A student must submit their specific concerns in writing. The TA may re-grade the entire test.

If you miss a midterm, you will receive a grade of zero for that midterm. If you missed the test for a legitimate reason (illness or other unavoidable calamity), you may qualify for the make up midterm (described below). In order to be eligible for the make-up test, you must first declare your absence using the ROSI Absence Declaration on the day of your absence. You must also document that you were unable to attend class on the relevant date as a result of your calamity. If you were ill, have your medical doctor complete a University of Toronto Medical Certificate. The doctor's OHIP registration number must be included on the note. Hand the medical note, along with the ROSI absence declaration, to me or to the department administrative assistant within one week of the midterm.

If you provide me with appropriate documentation (as above), and I accept it, you will be invited to write a single make-up midterm that will cover the entire term. It will take place after the last class, but prior to the winter holiday break (date/time TBD). The weight of the midterm will be transferred to the make-up test. Note that if you miss the make-up test you will receive a mark of zero for that component—there is no make-up for a make-up test.

2. Papers

You will be required to submit three short essays during the term. I will give four possible assignments – you choose three of them. For each exercise, I will provide a small dataset. You will construct an interesting graph or two from the data (using excel). You will discuss what you find, drawing on two academic sources (journal articles or books). Your paper should not exceed three pages, typed, double-spaced (excluding graphs, which can be appended). More details will be circulated in a separate document.

3. Presentations

Each student will make one short presentation during the term (likely lasting no more than 10 minutes). You will present one of your essay assignments. Students will sign up for a presentation in advance (corresponding to either assignment 1, 2, 3, or 4). Presentations will be spaced throughout the term, with the bulk of presentations on a given assignment occurring on the date the assignment is due. It is likely that we will not get through all of the presentations for a topic on the assignment due date, though, so some will spill into subsequent weeks.

Students should construct their presentation using powerpoint (or equivalent) and email it to me no later than one day before the due date for that assignment (i.e., Wednesday, no later than 5pm). This ensures that I have the relevant documents prior to class and I have time to upload the presentations onto my computer.

4. Participation

Students will have many opportunities to gain participation marks. The participation grade will be determined by students' participation in (a) 'exit cards' (randomly assigned during class – you fill them out prior to leaving class), (b) participation in class discussion (e.g., asking questions in response to student presentations).

Extensions and penalties:

Late assignments and late presentations will not be accepted.

If you fail to hand in one of your assignments on time, you will receive a zero on that assignment. Given that there are four possible assignments, it is theoretically possible to miss one and still hand in three assignments. As all of the assignments will be available from the beginning of term, it is best to work ahead if you are worried about missing a deadline.

If you fail to hand in your presentation on time or otherwise miss your presentation, you will receive a zero on the presentation. You may be able to present on another assignment topic, but due to time constraints there is no guarantee that this will happen.

Turnitin

Students will upload all of their essay assignments to turnitin (which is now integrated with blackboard).

Note:

“Students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site”.

Planned coverage and list of required supplementary readings for term 1

*NOTE: I reserve the right to change the readings. Links can be found on blackboard.

1. Growth perspectives

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. Why Nations Fail 2012 ch 1-4

2. Natives Pre-contact

Steckel, Richard. “Inequality Amidst Nutritional Abundance: Native Americans on the Great Plains.” *Journal of Economic History* 70 no. 2 (June, 2010): 265-286.

Dickason, Olive. Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times pp.20-47

3. Natives Post-contact

Carlos, Ann and Frank Lewis. “Marketing in the Land of Hudson Bay: Indian Consumers and the Hudson’s Bay Company, 1670-1770.” *Enterprise and Society* 3 (June 2002): 285-317.

Carlos, Ann and Frank Lewis. "Indians, the Beaver, and the Bay: The Economics of Depletion in the Lands of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1700-1763." *Journal of Economic History*, 53, no. 3, (1993): 465-

Le Clerq, Christien. “New Relation of Gaspesia, 1691.” In Thorner, Thomas, ed. A Few Acres of Snow: Documents in Pre-Confederation Canadian History: pp. 30-44.

4. Settlement and indentured servants

Galenson, “The Market Evaluation of Human Capital: The Case of Indentured Servitude.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 1981, 89(3), pp. 446-67.

Moogk, Peter. “Reluctant Exiles: Emigrants from France in Canada before 1760.” *William and Mary Quarterly* 46, no 3 (1989): 463-505.

Boucher, Peter. “True and Genuine Description of New France Commonly Called Canada, 1664, Paris” in A Few Acres of Snow, pp. 68-72

Paul LeJeune “Account of what Transpired in New France in the Year 1636.” Excerpts.
<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/settlement/text3/JesuitRelations1636.pdf>

5. Money

Powell, James. *History of the Canadian Dollar*: Read these chapters: “New France (ca. 1600-1770)” and “British Colonies in North America: The Early Years (pre-1841).”

Redish, Angela. “Why Was Specie Scarce in Colonial Economies? An Analysis of the Canadian Currency, 1796-1830.” *Journal of Economic History*, 44 no.3 (1984): 713-28.

6. Child labour

Hamilton “The Efficiency of the Market for Apprentices in North America” *Explorations in Economic History* 33, no.4 (1996): 496-523.

7. Capital and technology change: rise of the factory

Claudia Goldin and Kenneth Sokoloff. “Women, Children, and Industrialization in the Early Republic.” *Journal of Economic History*. 42, no.4 (1982): 741-774.

Hamilton, G. “The Decline of Apprenticeship in North America: Evidence from Montreal.” *Journal of Economic History* 60 (Sept., 2000): 627-664.