

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
Department of Economics

ECONOMICS 321 H1F – Summer 2014

CANADIAN ECONOMIC HISTORY  
Prior to 1850  
M–W 2:00–4:00. WW Room 120

Professor A. Rotstein  
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**I REQUIRED READINGS**

Students are required to purchase the following texts:

Easterbrook and Aitken, *Canadian Economic History*.  
Read pp. 1-292

Easterbrook and Watkins (eds.), *Approaches to Canadian Economic History*. Selected essays will be assigned in class.

In addition, seven other articles form part of the required reading (cf. Section VII). These articles are in a kit that may be purchased from PRINT CITY 180 Bloor St. W. just west of Bloor and Avenue Rd. Their telephone number is 416-920-3040.

**II TERM ESSAY**

Students are expected to write an original, fully-documented essay of about 4000 words (or 16 double-spaced pages) dealing with some theme of their choice in Canadian economic history before 1850. Possible themes include the fur trade (pick a particular period or geographic area, personality, company, the role of the Indians etc); the development of the fishing economy; the building of the canals; economic problems of the Maritime provinces prior to Confederation; the growth of the timber trade. The colonial policies of the European powers such as England and France including the role of naval power may be discussed. Many other topics are possible as well and some additional topics are listed in Section VIII below. If in doubt about a topic, you may consult with the teaching assistant

To assist everyone in selecting an appropriate topic, students are asked to produce a one-page outline of their

proposed essay that includes the title, two or three sentences stating the main theme as well as a bibliography of 4 or 5 sources that you propose to consult (books, journal articles, and websites etc) These outlines are due on Monday May 26 at the beginning of class. These outlines will be graded (10%) and will be returned to you the following Wednesday May 28th with comments and suggestions to assist you in your preparation. Completed essays are due on Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class. Please number the pages of the essay and include a cover sheet with the precise title of the essay, your name, student number and course number.

**NOTE:** Students are required to keep a file of their research notes, photocopied articles and early drafts used in preparing their essays. If any question arises as to the authorship of the essay, students will be required to submit this file. If they are unable to do so, no credit will be given for the essay.

### **III CLASS TEST**

There will be a class test of one hour covering the whole course on Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The test will be held in the same classroom as the lectures and will run from 2:10 to 3:00 pm. There will be no final exam.

### **IV GRADING SCHEME**

The final mark will be made up of the following:

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Outline of Essay      | 10%        |
| Essay                 | 50%        |
| Final test (in class) | 30%        |
| Participation         | <u>10%</u> |
|                       | 100%       |

### **V PARTICIPATION**

Students will be graded for their participation in the course through asking questions at the end of the lecture, offering comments on their readings, expressing an opinion on controversial topics or reporting on the progress of their essays. Regular attendance will also be taken into account when participation marks are awarded.

### **VI OFFICE HOURS**

A Teaching Assistant (T.A.) will be available for consultation about your term essay. T.A. office hours will be announced in class.

Professor Rotstein will be available to discuss themes from the lectures or any personal matters on Mondays from 12:45–1:45 pm. in room G 40 in the basement of the Economics Department, 150 St. George. He may also be reached via email at [abraham.rotstein@utoronto.ca](mailto:abraham.rotstein@utoronto.ca) for brief inquiries. only. Note that all matters concerning the essay should be discussed with the T.A.

## VII ARTICLES

Your Kit contains the following articles all of which are required reading:

Rich, E.E. "Trade Habits and Economic Motivation among the Indians of North America." Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science, Vol.XXVI, No.1, February, 1960, pp.35-53.

Rotstein, A. "Innis: The Alchemy of Fur and Wheat." Journal of Canadian Studies, Vol.12, No.5, Winter, 1977, pp.6-31.

Ray, Arthur J., and D. Freeman. "Trade and Politics: A Reinterpretation." Ch.15 from 'Give Us Good Measure': An Economic Analysis of Relations Between the Indians and the Hudson's Bay Company Before 1763. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1978, p. 231-236.

———. "Economic Dimensions of Trade." Ch.16 from 'Give Us Good Measure': An Economic Analysis of Relations Between the Indians and the Hudson's Bay Company Before 1763. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1978, p.237-245.

Trigger, Bruce G. "The Nature of Indian Trade." Excerpt from Natives and Newcomers: Canada's "Heroic Age" Reconsidered. Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1985, p. 183-194.

Tanner, Adrian. "The End of Fur Trade History." Queen's Quarterly, 90/1 (Spring 1983), pp.176-191.

Tulchinsky, Gerald J.J. "Conclusion." Ch.13 from The River Barons: Montreal Businessmen and the Growth of Industry and Transportation, 1837-53. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1977, p. 232-239.

## **VIII SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS (Approximately 4000 words or 16 double-spaced pages)**

The topics suggested below are generally very wide in scope. Students should narrow the topic to a particular time period, a particular issue or a leading personality in that economy. This list is not intended to be exhaustive. Choose any other topic in Canadian economic history before 1850 if you prefer.

If in doubt about a topic consult the TA.

Essays should have a cover page with the exact title, the course number and the name of the student. Please number the pages of the essay.

**A comparative study of New England and New France to 1763.**

**New France and the Staples Thesis.**

**The economic organization (or institutions) of the fur trade.**

**The role of a particular staple industry in Canadian development up to 1860.**

**The early economic history of the Atlantic Provinces.**

**The historical role of the United States in Canadian economic development up to and including the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854**

**The interaction of commerce and politics on the St. Lawrence to 1850.**

**The staples thesis of Harold Innis**

**The early banks in Canada.**

**The Hudson's Bay Company before 1850**

**The role of mercantilist policies in early Canadian development**