Economics 201Y1

THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF LATER-MEDIEVAL AND EARLY-MODERN EUROPE

(European Economic History, 1250 - 1750)

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY: SELECTED READINGS

for 2003 - 2004

In your term essays and on the examinations you are expected to provide evidence of having done a reasonable amount of reading for this course. But nothing on this list should be considered as compulsory readings, though you should read at least one or two textbooks (or find equivalent readings on your own). These bibliographic references are intended only to provide more general references for term essays; or they may be used as supplemental, voluntary readings and references for lectures, etc. The following bibliography contains only books (textbooks, monographs, collections of essays, etc.); recommended journal articles will be found in the separate lists for readings/essays (five per term).

After using this bibliography as a general guide, do consult the bibliographies for the 25 Essay and General Reading Topics for this course (both terms), which are or will be available online, posted on my Home Page: http://economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/

Library catalogue numbers have been provided for the more important books.

Most economic history books are catalogued with the prefix HC 240; those in British economic history, with HC 253, HC 254.5.

I begin with one book that does not fit into any of the following categories, but one that most students (who are not expert writers) are well advised to acquire for guidance in writing both essays and examinations in economics, as well as in economic history:


For a general compendium of world economic history, see the recently published:

I. **READINGS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY:**

For a general compendium of world economic history, see the recently published:


A. **GENERAL TEXTBOOKS** (Optional)

There are no mandatory textbooks for this course; nevertheless, most students would like at least one general reference book; and I can recommend the first two book listed, by Carlo Cipolla and Ralph Davis, as general textbooks for the year. You need not feel compelled to buy both (though that might be a good idea); and one will be sufficient. As either alternatives or as supplementary reading, you may consider the books that follow these two, all of which are, to repeat, purely optional.


This may be considered the other or alternative principal reference text for the entire year. As the title suggests, however, it necessarily omits the Mediterranean, Baltic, and Central European regions; but since the ultimate focus of the course will be is on the Atlantic powers, especially the Netherlands and England, this may not be such a serious deficiency. The book is very well written, and quite comprehensive, though principally historical in orientation, with very little economics; it is also now rather dated in the coverage of some topics.


A very good, often profound survey of the early modern European economy (if somewhat superficial in coverage), covering the second half of the course. Both topical and regional, with the following chapters:

A renowned and classic study [subsequently elaborated and developed as his three-volume study: *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th - 18th Century* (1979)], you may well better enjoy or prefer this book to the Davis book, though I still believe that the Davis book is better suited to this course. Unfortunately, however, this book is now out of print, and thus is available only in the university libraries.

5. Edwin S. Hunt and James M. Murray, *A History of Business in Medieval Europe, 1200 - 1550*, Cambridge Medieval Textbooks (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999). Despite some lukewarm reviews, I find this to be a very useful survey of later-medieval West European commercial and financial history, with a focus on Italy and the Low Countries; but it does not cover the second half of the course.


This book is now out of print, and thus available only in the libraries.


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These three books (4 - 6) are published as part of a Cambridge University Press series in European economic history. They are well written, entertaining, short and concise, but thus much thinner in content than the Davis; and their analyses (especially Miskimin's) are also more biased than Davis's book.

This book (listed at $50.00 U.S.) is too expensive to buy, but a much cheaper paper-back edition is forthcoming. The following chapters indicate the importance of the contents. Despite the time-frame given in the title, 1400-1600, most of these studies (and certainly mine) begin before and end after these dates.

- Merry E. Wiesner, ‘Family, Household, and Community,’ , pp. 51-78.
- Barthelomei Yun, ‘Economic Cycles and Structural Changes,’ pp. 113-46.
- John H. Munro, ‘Patterns of Trade, Money, and Credit,’ pp. 147-95.


In addition to these books, you should (I am tempted to say ‘must’) acquire the following:


This book is evidently not in the Robarts Library, which probably decided not to acquire it in addition to the previous version, published as: D. N. McCloskey, The Writing of Economics (New York: MacMillan, 1987), which is thus now out of print, but may be available as second-hand copies. In just 63 pages. PE 1479 E35M33 1987.

Most students should find this short book valuable for writing essays, both in economic history and in economics more generally.

B. SOME USEFUL COLLECTIONS OF ESSAYS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY


18. L. A. Clarkson (formerly T.C. Smout, and M.W. Flinn), general editor, *Studies in Economic and Social History*, prepared for the Economic History Studies, published by MacMillan Education Ltd. (London, England), including the following titles relevant to this course, listed alphabetically by author's surname. Each is about 50-60 pp. in length, with bibliographies:

   Michael Anderson, *Approaches to the History of the Western Family, 1500-1914*

   J.A. Chartres, *Internal Trade in England, 1500 - 1700*

   L.A. Clarkson, *Proto-Industrialization: The First Phase of Industrialization?*
D.C. Coleman, *Industry in Tudor and Stuart England*

Ralph Davis, *English Overseas Trade, 1500 - 1700*

M. W. Flinn, *British Population Growth, 1700 - 1850*


R.H. Hilton, *The Decline of Serfdom in Medieval England*


J.D. Marshall, *The Old Poor Law*

G.E. Mingay, *Enclosure and the Small Farmer in the Age of the Industrial Revolution*


Roy Porter, *Disease, Medicine, and Society in England, 1550 - 1860*

G.D. Ramsay, *The English Woollen Industry, 1500 - 1750*

Joan Thirsk, *Agricultural Regions and Agrarian History in England, 1500 -1750*


C. **EUROPEAN ECONOMIC HISTORY: SURVEYS, COLLECTED STUDIES, and GENERAL STUDIES** (including the textbooks listed in section A).

**General Surveys and Collected Studies:**

* 1. Carlo M. Cipolla, *Before the Industrial Revolution: European Society and Economy, 1000 -*


b) Merry E. Wiesner, ‘Family, Household, and Community,’ pp. 51-78.
d) Barthelmey Yun, ‘Economic Cycles and Structural Changes,’ pp. 113-46.
e) John H. Munro, ‘Patterns of Trade, Money, and Credit,’ pp. 147-95.


18. Fernand Braudel, *Capitalism and Material Life, 1400-1800* (1967). This book was subsequently expanded as the following in 3 vols. HC 51 B67413 [Also: HC 45 B713]


Vol. I: *The Structures of Everyday Life: The Limits of the Possible*

Vol. II: *The Wheels of Commerce*


Vol. II: Mercantilism and the Consolidation of the European World-Economy, 1600 - 1750 (1980).


Recommended in a qualified fashion: for its massive amount of information, and some original if provocative insights. But it should be used with some care, with some considerations of its strong biases, and particular theses being propounded.


While this book seemingly ‘ends’ just at the beginning of the course, European geography did not change that much after 1330 -- and this book still remains useful for this course.


**Studies in Demographic and Agrarian History**


**Studies in Urban History:**


**Studies in Technology, Transport, Industry, and Markets:**


72. Herman Van der Wee, ed., The Rise and Decline of Urban Industries in Italy and in the Low Countries: Late Middle Ages - Early Modern Times (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1988). HC 310.5 R57 1988


Studies in Prices, Money, Banking, Finance, Commerce and Monetary-Financial Policies:


82. Reinhold C. Mueller, Money and Banking in Medieval and Renaissance Venice, Vol. II:
The Venetian Money Market: Banks, Panics, and the Public Debt, 1200 - 1500
(Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.)

83. Rondo Cameron, ed., Banking in the Early Stages of Industrialization: A Study in
Comparative Economic History (New York, 1967). HC 51 C34

84. James D. Tracy, ed., The Rise of Merchant Empires: Long-Distance Trade in the Early
Modern World, 1350 - 1750 (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University

85. James Tracy, ed., The Political Economy of Merchant Empires: State Power and World

86. E. H. Phelps Brown, and Sheila Hopkins, A Perspective of Wages and Prices (London,

87. David Hackett Fischer, The Great Wave: Price Revolutions and the Rhythm of History
(Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1996). To be used with great
care. HB 231 F48 1996X

88. John Munro, Bullion Flows and Monetary Policies in England and the Low Countries, 1350
- 1500, Variorum Collected Studies series CS 355 (Aldershot, Hampshire; and


92. Lars Magnusson, Mercantilism: The Shaping of an Economic Language (London and New

**Early-Modern Europe: Warfare, Religion, the State, and the ‘General Crisis’ Debate**


94. Geoffrey Parker and Lesley Smith, eds., The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century

95. Geoffrey Parker, The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West,
1500 - 1800, 2nd edition (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press,
1996).

96. Bert S. Hall, Weapons and Warfare in Renaissance Europe: Gunpowder, Technology, and


Studies in the Relations between Europe and the non-European Worlds:


103. Eliyahu Ashtor, Studies on Levantine Trade in the Middle Ages, Variorium Reprints CS74 (London: 1978)


111. Kate Fleet, European and Islamic Trade in the Early Ottoman State: the Merchants of Genoa and Turkey (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).


C. THE LATE-MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN LOW COUNTRIES (NETHERLANDS) AND GERMANY


29. Richard Unger, *Dutch Shipbuilding Before 1800: Ships and Guilds* (Van Gorcum, 1978). See also the following:


33. Frederick Krantz and Paul Hohenberg, eds., *Failed Transitions to Modern Industrial Society: Renaissance Italy and Seventeenth Century Holland* (Montreal, 1975). HC 51 F28


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D. **LATE-MEDIEVAL AND EARLY-MODERN ENGLAND**


Press, 1997).


   Vol. I: People, Land, and Towns

   Vol. II: Industry, Trade, and Government


   


All of the essays are very up to date; and this collection certainly should not be overlooked, even if the greater part of each essay in Vol. I goes past the 1750 boundary, and more properly belongs in ECO 303Y. Most of the essays in this new edition are new, but they do not entirely supersede those found in the 1981 edition.


E. EARLY-MODERN FRANCE (TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, 1789).

Titles in French are for the benefit only of those students who feel comfortable reading in French; and you are not expected to be proficient in French to do this course.


5. C.E. Labrousse, La crise de l'économie française à la fin de l'ancien régime et au début de la Revolution (Paris, 1944).


F. **ITALY: LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN**


27. Herman Van der Wee, ed., *The Rise and Decline of Urban Industries in Italy and in the Low Countries: Late Middle Ages - Early Modern Times* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1988). HC 310.5 R57 1988


34. Domenico Sella, Italy in the Seventeenth Century (London and New York: Longman, 1997).


F. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL: 14TH TO 18TH CENTURIES


and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997).


II. **ECONOMIC THEORY, ECONOMETRICS, AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY**

**Economic Theory and Econometrics in Economic History Literature**

Most of the textbooks listed above involve only minimal economic theory. Most students, I suspect, will find this relative absence of complex theory, calculus, and econometrics to be more of an advantage than a disadvantage, since most undergraduates do not handle theoretical problems well in economic history, and are often perplexed on encountering econometrics. At this point let me reassure the majority of students that you are not required to employ either theory or econometrics in any essay or examination. To be sure, employing them correctly and cogently will undoubtedly enhance the quality of your work; but do not use these theoretical tools unless you are absolutely certain of them.

Those who would welcome more theory and econometrics will not, however, be disappointed. You will encounter as much as you want in the current journal articles that are assigned in the essays/readings lists. I fully realize that the reactions of many students in encountering econometrics (and calculus) and complex theoretical propositions in this journal literature is often a mixture of dismay and terror. In such cases, my advice is as follows: (a) read around the econometrics, etc., which are chiefly designed to provide numerate, mathematical support for literary claims that are written in perfectly intelligible English; and/or (b) consult one or more of the following guides.

A. **ECONOMETRICS AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY**


   This is a very short, highly readable, and most valuable introduction to the very subject. pages.


7. Jon Stewart, *Understanding Econometrics* (London, 1976). A good, short introduction to the subject for those who have not yet had a course in econometrics. For more advanced textbooks, consult the following two:


B. **THEORIES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS APPLIED TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC HISTORY**


C. SOME ECONOMIC THEORIES OF MONEY AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO ECONOMIC HISTORY:

(a) In Textbooks of Recent Vintage


(b) *Essays and Monographs: Recent and Classic*

1. Robert J. Gordon, ed., *Milton Friedman's Monetary Framework: A Debate with his Critics* (Chicago, 1977), especially:


(c) **On the History of Monetary Doctrines and Theories**


7. Don Pantinkin, *Money, Interest, and Prices*, 2nd edn. (1965) and *Studies in Monetary Economics* (1972). Combines historical studies with original economic analysis and criticism, so that these works belong in the previous section as well.