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ECONOMICS 303Y1

The Economic History of Modern Europe to 1914

ESSAYS TOPICS FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER: September - December 2012

Essays topics must be drawn from one of the three following lists: A, B, or C

- A. **MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS: A - LIST ESSAY TOPICS** for the Fall Semester, September to December 2012.

Topics drawn from the Master List of Topics: which are guaranteed to be on, or related to questions on, the Final Examination, in April 2013.

The numbers in the square brackets following the topic title refer to the numbers on this Master List. See this list on my Home Page, as follows:

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

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/303TUTOP.pdf>

1. The Economic Decline of the Netherlands in the Eighteenth Century: Cause or Consequence of the British Industrial Revolution? [Topic no. 3]
2. The Protestant Dissenters and the Industrial Revolution: The role of religious factors in entrepreneurship and modern industrialization [Topic no. 6]
3. Population Growth and the Industrial Revolution, 1750 - 1830: A cause or consequence of modern urban industrialization? [Topic no. 7]
4. Labour and The Enclosures of the Industrial Revolution Era in England: The social costs of agricultural modernization, ca. 1760 - 1830 [Topic no. 8]
5. The 'Imperialism of Free Trade', 1840-1870: Were Free Trade, the Free Trade Movement, and overseas colonialism economically and philosophically compatible? [Topic no. 11]

- B. **OTHER RECOMMENDED TOPICS FROM THE MASTER LIST: the "B" List, for September - December 2012.**

You may choose any one of these, instead of the topics given in the "A" List. But only the "A" list topics are guaranteed to be on the final examination. You are also expected to find your own readings for these topics; i.e., the readings provided in the bound collection of readings from Scholar House Productions are not (with a few exceptions) related to these topics. The numbers are those

given on the Master List. The following topics are, however, of an equal importance, in terms of intellectual content and relevance, to those in the A-List; and some of these topics will become A-List topics the next time the course is given.

1. The 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century,' c. 1620 - c. 1740: Hobsbawm's 'Marxist' Thesis on the Origins of Modern Capitalism and the 'Industrial Revolution'
2. Mercantilism: Money, Economic Nationalism, and the State in Early-Modern Europe
4. Warfare and the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe, 1760 - 1815
5. The Causes of the British Industrial Revolution, 1750-1830: Exogenous or Endogenous?

Take care before deciding to choose this topic, which is one frequently found for sale by various essay banks. Therefore, we will check any essay submitted on this topic very carefully for plagiarism (using the Google search engine).

9. The 'Proto-Industrialization' Debate: Agriculture, Rural Handicraft Industries in Early Modern Europe, and the Transition to Modern Urban Industrialization
10. Banking and the 'Industrial Revolution': A Comparison of the Role of Dutch and British Financial Institutions in Promoting Economic Growth, 1660 - 1850

Notes:

- a) Please note carefully that all of the remaining topics, i.e., nos. 12 - 21, are strictly reserved for the second semester. Similarly, in the second term you will not be allowed to select any topic from nos. 1- 11, for a second term topic. You may, however, choose one of these for a third essay topic (in lieu of the mid-year test, if you so choose to do a third essay topic).
- b) 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).
- c) 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.
- d) There is no guarantee that the subject matter of these secondary (B category) topics will appear on the final examination.
- e) For a fuller explanation of the significance of these topics, refer again to the web document for the Master List of Essay Topics for Eco. 301Y:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/303TUTOP.pdf>

C. ALTERNATIVE ESSAY TOPICS: for the first term, Sept. to Dec. 2012

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:

1. The 1660s as an era of revolutionary transition in the English economy.
2. The 'Agricultural Depression of 1660 - 1740': benefits and costs for the British economy
3. Religion and Education in 18th Century England: the Role of the Protestant 'Dissenter' Academies in the Industrial Revolution Era.
4. The Foundations of the Dutch Commercial Empire in the 17th and 18th Centuries.
5. The English Navigation Laws: Success or Failure?
6. The English and Dutch Shipbuilding Industries in the 18th Century: an Economic Comparison.
7. England and the Americas in the 18th Century: the Economic Connections.
8. English Commerce and Shipping in the Caribbean in the later 17th and 18th Centuries.
9. English Commerce and Shipping in the Mediterranean in the later 17th and 18th Centuries.
10. 'New Colonialism' in English and Dutch overseas commerce, 1670 - 1750: a comparison.
11. The 'Scientific Revolution' of the 17th Century and the Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century: Was there any Connection?
12. The Role of the Bank of England in the English Economy, 1694 - 1844
13. Public Debt and Taxation: the role of state finances in the British economy during the Industrial Revolution era. ca. 1760 - ca. 1830.
14. The Business Cycle, Inflation, and Deflation, 1790 - 1842: the nature of international economic fluctuations in the evolving British industrial economy.
15. Scottish Banking in the 18th and 19th Centuries: A Superior Model?
16. The 'South Sea Bubble' and the 'Bubble Act' of 1720: Their impact upon business financing and capital formation in the English Economy, 1720 - 1826.

17. Water Power and Steam Power in the British Economy, 1710 - 1860
18. On Curing the Social Ills of the 'Industrial Revolution': British government legislation to protect the working classes in the 19th century.
19. The First Transportation Revolution: Canals and Turnpikes in 18th Century England.
20. The 19th Century Revolution in Transportation: Railroads
21. An economic comparison of the British cotton and woollen industries, 1815 - 1860: technology, industrial scale, location, and the export trades.
22. The Role of the Corn Laws in British Agriculture, 1660 - 1846.
23. Technological innovations and Mechanization in British Agriculture, 1770 - 1860.
24. The role of discount houses in British banking and finance during the 19th century.
25. The British Iron Industry, from Darby to Neilsen (1710 - 1830): How did Britain Overcome the 'Tyranny of Wood and Water'?
26. The role of the entrepreneur during the Industrial Revolution era: a comparison of the careers of Darby, Arkwright, Wilkinson, and Wedgwood. [Or you may do a 'biography' of just one of these entrepreneurs]
27. The 19th Century Transportation Revolution: Steam Shipping.
28. British, German, and American Competition in Oceanic Shipping in the 19th century.
29. Labour strife and the origins of trade unions in England during the later 18th and 19th centuries.
30. The Luddites: who were they and what did they accomplish?
31. The Royal Society: Science, Education, and Technological Innovation Before and During the Industrial Revolution era, c. 1660 - 1820
32. Intellectual Property Rights: Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights in Technological and Industrial Innovations during the Industrial Revolution Era (18th and early 19th centuries).

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ON WRITING AND SUBMITTING YOUR TERM ESSAYS

(1) Essay Length and format: Essays should be about 3,000 words long, or about 10 typewritten or word-processed pages, with double-spaced typing. The minimum length is 2,100 words (about 7 pages) and the normal maximum is 3,600 words (about 12 pages), which, with my permission (virtually always given), may be extended to 4,500 words (about 15 pages). I am more concerned about the length of essays that are under the limit than I am about those over the limit (within reason, of course).

(2) Preparation: Please have your essays prepared on a typewriter or word-processor, if at all possible. Handwritten essays will be accepted, but only if they are neat and legible, and double-spaced.

(3) First-term essays are due: on Friday, 16 November 2012, except for those who have obtained legitimate extensions (on medical or compassionate grounds).

- a) a bonus mark of 5% of the value of the essay (25 marks) will be awarded to those submitting their term essay before or on the actual due date.
- b) The late penalty is 3% of the value of the essay (25 marks) per week of lateness. Late penalties apply only from one week after the formal due date (as above) – because the late penalty is applied by the week, not the day.

(4) For More information on writing term essays:

a) **Consult the web document 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>

b) **Consult also the Course Outline, for further information on submitting the term essays, deadlines, and late penalties.** It is available on-line on my Home Page:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/303out.pdf>

c) **See also the following book (available from the bookstore):** Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition (Waveland Press, Illinois, 2000).

MORE SPECIFIC AND MANDATORY ESSAY REQUIREMENTS: some of which is included in the above web documents.

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

1. **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 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.

2. **Your essay must not be under the minimum or over the maximum word limits**, i.e., between about 2100 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. Essays whose word count is below the minimum are of far more concern to me than those whose word count is above the maximum.

3. **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 you're 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. Thus the term 'primary' does NOT mean the most important (secondary) publications consulted. 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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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, mailing address, and phone number: **most important!** I may need the mailing address to return late essays, before or after the final examination
 - 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)

7. Other 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 (without graphs, etc.) 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 available for sale, 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 or sales@scholar-house.on.ca

- (e) **These five A-List topics** 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 A-List 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.

8. **The marking scheme for essays in my undergraduate economic history courses**

a) **allocation of marks: out of 100% for the essay**

- i) **quality of the research** (including number and relevance of the sources): 30%
- ii) **quality of the analysis:** economic and/or historical: 45%
- iii) **quality of the written exposition:** clarity, cogency, literary style, grammar, syntax, punctuation, spelling, etc.: 25%

b) **Refer to my on-line document on:** *How to Get an “A” grade on term essays and the mid-year test (without bribes):*

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

My TA (who marks all the term essays) has been instructed not to end up with numerical marks ending in 9: i.e., 49, 59, 69, 79, 89. The TA has also been asked to review this web-document and decide, on that basis, whether – for the sum of its parts – the essays deserves to receive a B- or C+ grade, an A- or B+ grade, etc.

9. **The focus of the essay: economics or history?**

Whether the focus of your essay is economic analysis or historical analysis is up to you. Economic history belongs equally to Economics and to History. Follow your own comparative advantage and your own approach to economic history in doing so.
