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ECONOMICS 301Y1

The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe

(European Economic History, 1250 - 1750)

FIRST SEMESTER ESSAY TOPICS: FALL TERM 2013

I. Essay Requirements:

a) **For the use of Turnitin**, for the submission of term essays, see the course outline and guides to writing term essays.

b) Essay Length:

- 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, may be extended to 4,500 words (about 15 pages).
- 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.
- Please read carefully the Appendix: SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
- Please also refer to my web document on INSTRUCTIONS ON WRITING TERM ESSAYS:
<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/ESSINSTR.pdf>
- Be also sure to read and carefully follow all the instructions provided after the A, B, and C lists of essay topics.
- See also Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition (Waveland Press, Illinois, 2000).

c) Due date:

The first-term essays are due on Friday, 15 November 2013, except for those who have obtained legitimate extensions. For late penalties, see below.

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/munro5/301out.pdf>

II. ECO 301Y ESSAY TOPICS FOR FIRST SEMESTER: September - December 2013

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

A. MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS:

Topics drawn from the Master List of Topics: which are guaranteed to be on, or related to questions on, the Final Examination, in April 2014. 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:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/301TUTOP.pdf>

1. The Black Death and the Late Medieval Demographic Crises [Topic no. 1]
2. The Problem of Serfdom in European Economic Development, II: The Spread of Serfdom in Eastern Europe, ca. 1400 - ca. 1700 [Topic no. 3]
3. Feudal Governments, Warfare, Taxation, and Economic Crisis in Late-Medieval Europe, c. 1250 - 1500 [Topic no. 4]
4. Monetary Problems and 'Economic Conjuncture' in Late-Medieval Europe, ca. 1290 - ca. 1520: the nature of price changes; and the interrelationships among demographic, agrarian, and monetary changes in the European economy [Topic no. 6]
5. The Church, the Usury Question, and Late-Medieval Banking: the Foundations of Modern Finance [Topic no. 7]

B. OTHER RECOMMENDED TOPICS FROM THE MASTER LIST: the 'B' List, for September - December 2013.

You may choose any one of these, from the 'B' List - i.e., 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.

Other ECO 301Y topics available for essays from the Master List: the numbers that follow refer to the essay topic numbers on the Master List of A and B topic

2. The Problem of Serfdom in European Economic Development, I: The Decline of Serfdom in Western Europe, ca. 1300 - ca. 1500

5. The 'Great Depression' of the Late Middle Ages: Economic Slump or Economic Growth?
8. The Dynamics of Change in Late-Medieval Industry, ca. 1250 - ca. 1460: Textile Manufacturing in Western Europe (Italy, the Low Countries, France, and England).
9. Urban Governments, Guilds, and Gender-Related Occupations in Late-Medieval European Towns, 1200 - 1500: Merchant-guilds, industrial-craft guilds, and the contrasting roles of men and women in West European towns during the later Middle Ages.
10. International Trade and The European Economic Recovery, ca. 1450 - 1550: South Germany, Italy, and the Low Countries.
11. The Inauguration of the Age of Overseas Expansion: Maritime Explorations and the Establishment of the Portuguese and Spanish Overseas Empires, c. 1450 - 1600.
12. The Rise and Expansion of The Dutch Commercial Empire: ca. 1360 - ca. 1550.

Special Notes:

- a) Please note carefully that all of the remaining topics, nos. 13 - 25, are strictly reserved for the second term. Similarly, in the second term you will not be allowed to select any topic from nos. 1- 12 for a second term 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; and 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/munro5/301TUTOP.pdf>

C. 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, for any of the following topics. If you wish to choose an alternative topic that is not from the following list (and not from the A or B lists) then you must obtain my approval for the topic.

1. The Economics of West European Feudalism, 13th - 15th Centuries.
2. The Economics of Later-Medieval Manorialism in Western Europe: changing economic relationships between lords and peasants.
3. The Common Field Systems of northern European agriculture: explain their origins and persistence into early-modern times.
4. Compare and contrast the evolution of field systems and crop rotations in southern and northern European agriculture from the 11th to 15th centuries.
5. Did the western European economy experience a 'Malthusian' crisis by the early 14th century?
6. The 'Great European Famine' of 1315-1322: causes and consequences.
7. The Evolution of the European 'Marriage Pattern': late-medieval or early-modern?
8. Real wages and living standards in late-medieval western Europe: did they rise or fall between the Black Death (1348) and the European Conquest of the Americas in the 1520s? [You may focus your attention on one country, e.g. England]
9. The 'Crisis of the Early Fourteenth Century': Did western Europe experience a combined demographic and economic crisis in the early fourteenth century?
10. The impact of warfare on the European economies: ca. 1290 - 1453 (to the end of the Hundred Years' War)
11. Analyse the growth of a money-economy in western Europe from the 11th to 15th centuries, explaining the role of money in the medieval economy: in terms of coinages and moneys of account systems.
12. From serfs to copyholders: the evolution of English peasant society during the 14th and 15th centuries.
13. Peasant rebellions in 14th century Europe: causes and consequences.

OR: Wat Tyler and The English Peasants' Revolt of 1381.
14. The Statute of Labourers and Wage-Regulation in Late-Medieval England (to ca. 1520): Did it Work?

15. Agrarian Changes in the late-medieval and early-modern Low Countries: the birthplace of the modern 'Agricultural Revolution'?
16. Late-medieval Italy: the social and economic consequences of agrarian changes. [Or you may choose another late-medieval region or country: northern France, southern France, Spain, the Low Countries, Germany, east or west, Poland, Russia, etc.]
17. Explain the evolution of the *mezzadria* and *metayage* systems of land-tenure in Mediterranean agriculture, focussing on Italy and southern France.
18. What was the Muslim heritage for the agriculture of medieval and early-modern Spain?
19. Wool Production and the Wool Trade in Late-Medieval England: their importance for the agricultural, commercial, and industrial sectors, and for public finance.
20. International competition in the woollen industries and trades: the Low Countries, Italy, and England, ca. 1290 - ca. 1520.
21. The Rise of the English Cloth Industry, ca. 1340 - ca. 1520
22. The changing structure of the textile industries in the Low Countries (or in France, or in Italy, or Spain): responses to international market forces.
23. English taxation and the export economy, 1275 - 1558.
24. Compare and contrast the changes in sheep-farming, wool production, and the wool-export trades in medieval England and Spain, to ca. 1520.
25. The Decline and Fall of the Champagne Fairs.
26. Compare and contrast the changing roles of overland-continental trade routes and maritime routes in international trade, from the 12th to 15th centuries.
27. Why did the Italians dominate international commerce and banking in late-medieval Europe?

OR: Venetian Hegemony in Mediterranean Trade during the 14th and 15th Centuries: causes and consequences
28. The importance of the Levant and Egypt to the European economy, 1290 - 1520
29. The importance of the Baltic Sea zone to the European economy during the 14th, 15th, and early 16th centuries.
30. The Rise and Fall of the German Hanseatic League during the 14th and 15th centuries: how did they acquire and finally lose commercial hegemony in northern Europe?
31. The role of Lübeck in the maritime economies of the Baltic, the North Sea, and the Atlantic, from the late 13th to early 16th centuries.

32. The Rise of the Dutch Shipbuilding Industry: How did the Dutch acquire European mastery in shipbuilding and shipping?
33. Technological Innovations in European Shipbuilding and Navigation during the 14th and 15th Centuries.
34. Portugal and European Expansion: how and why did the Portuguese inaugurate the age of European exploration and overseas colonization, ca. 1450 - ca. 1520?
35. The South German - Central European silver mining boom, 1460 - 1520: causes and consequences.
36. Rise and Expansion of the South Germany Economy, 1380 - 1520
37. Analyse the changing role of the spice trade in European commerce from the 13th to 16th centuries.
38. The Rise of the Antwerp Market, 1420 - 1520: English woollens, South German metals, and Portuguese spices.

OR: The Shift of International Commerce from Bruges to Antwerp in the 15th Century.
39. The Evolution of Antwerp as an International Money Market for Public Loans in the late 15th and 16th centuries.
40. The Evolution of the Bill of Exchange in European Commerce and Finance, ca. 1275 - ca. 1530
41. The Medici and the Fuggers: a Comparison of leading Italian and South German merchant-banking houses in the 15th and 16th centuries.
42. North Africa, West Africa and the European economy, ca. 1300 - ca. 1550.
43. Examine the changes in European military technologies from the 13th to early 16th centuries: with a particular focus upon the emergence of firearms and artillery.

D. SECOND SEMESTER: MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS: January to April 2014

These are also drawn from the Master List of Essay and General Reading Topics (25 Topics). For the second term, you may also choose any other topic from the Master List of Essay and Reading Topics, from nos. 13 - 25 inclusive.

Topic Numbers: those in square brackets refer to the topic numbers of the Master List

6. The Population Problem and the Economic Development of Early-Modern Europe (1500 - 1640): Was there a 'Malthusian Trap'? [Topic no. 13]
7. The Era of the European 'Price Revolution', ca. 1520-1640: The Debate about the Hamilton Thesis on the Causes and Consequences of Inflation in Early-Modern Europe. What Impact did Long-Term Inflation Have on Economic Growth? [Topic no. 14]
8. The 'Rise of Capitalism' and The Protestant Reformations: the Weber-Tawney Theses on the 'Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,' 16th - 18th Centuries [Topic no. 15]
9. The Social Costs of Agricultural Modernization: The Tudor-Stuart Enclosure Movements in England, from ca. 1480 to ca. 1700 [Topic no. 16]
10. Mercantilism: Money, Economic Nationalism, and the State in Early-Modern Europe [Topic no. 24]

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 of the following topics, chosen from 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:** If you select a topic from this C list, you should seek my advice and approval for the bibliography; but you must find your own bibliography first.
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 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 re-submit the essay to me personally that has been revised and redone according to the specified format. Footnotes are preferable to endnotes, which in turn are preferable to in-text citations; but your grade will not be affected by this choice.
3. **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.
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 the 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. 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, mailing address, and phone number: **most important!** I may need the mailing address to return late essays.
 - 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 confirm with the other regulations set out in the *Instructions on Writing Term Essays*.
- The web URL is: <http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/ESSINSTR.pdf>
9. **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, in mid September 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.

10. **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.

- c) **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.
