

ECONOMICS 301Y1

The Economic History of Later-Medieval and Early-Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

SECOND SEMESTER ESSAY TOPICS: January to April 2014

Updated: 14 August 2013

I. Essay Requirements:

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 computer 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.
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- See also Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition (Waveland Press, Illinois, 2000).

Due date:

Second-term essays are due on Friday, 21 March 2014, 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 THE SECOND SEMESTER: January - April 2014

to be drawn from one of the following three lists (A, B, C)

A. MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS: from the Master List

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

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

The numbers in square brackets (after the title) refer to the topic numbers in 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]

B. OTHER AVAILABLE TOPICS FROM THE MASTER LIST, for the second semester:

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 for the essays are those on the Master List of A and B Topics

17. The 'Rise of the Gentry' Debate: On the Origins of Modern 'Agrarian Capitalism'
18. On the Industrial 'Origins' of the Industrial Revolution: The Nef Thesis on Industrial Change in Tudor-Stuart England, ca. 1540 - 1640
19. Social and Agrarian Changes in Early-Modern France: the Decline of Feudalism, Rural 'Embourgeoisement' and the Seigneurial Reaction, 1480 to 1789
20. The 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century,' 1620-1740: The Hobsbawm Thesis on the Transition from 'Feudalism to Modern Capitalism'
21. Depopulation, Deflation, and Economic 'Crises' in 17th Century Europe
22. The 'Proto-Industrialization' Debate: The Mendels Thesis on Rural Handicraft Industries in Early Modern Europe and the Transition to Modern Urban Industrialization

23. The Economic Declines of Italy and Spain in the 17th Century: Aspects of the European 'General Crisis Era'?

25. The Economic Decline of the Netherlands in the Eighteenth Century: Absolute or Relative?

Notes and Explanations for these B-List Topics:

- a) Please note carefully that all of the preceding topics, nos.1 - 12 , were and are strictly reserved for the first term.
- 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/munro5/301TUTOP.pdf>

C. OTHER ALTERNATIVE ESSAY TOPICS, for the second semester

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:

Do not choose a topic that is related to either your first term essay or to the question selected (if any) for the January mid-term test.

1. The Behaviour of Wages during Periods of Inflation or Deflation (or both) in Early-Modern Europe.
2. Wage-Controls in Early-modern England: Did they work?
3. An Economic Analysis of Agricultural and Industrial Price Trends in Early-modern England.
4. The Italian and South German banking houses in the 16th Century: a comparison of their role in European financial capitalism and economic development.

5. The Decline of Antwerp and the Rise of Amsterdam, ca. 1540 - 1640: a comparison of their commercial-financial roles in Europe's economy.
6. Technical innovations in shipping and navigation during the era of European exploration and colonization, ca. 1450 - 1700.
7. The Dutch and English shipbuilding industries, 16th to 18th centuries: a comparison of technical and economic progress.
8. Warfare, Naval Power, and Economic Development in Early-Modern Europe.
9. The Overseas Commerce of France, 1600 - 1789
10. The changing role of the Baltic Sea region in the economic development of Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries.
11. 'Old' and 'New' Colonialism in English (or Dutch or French) overseas commercial expansion, ca. 1550 - 1750.
12. The Role of the African Slave Trade in the European economy, 1500 - 1815; or a Comparison of the British, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and French Roles in the Atlantic Slave Trade.
13. The Role of Silver in International Trade, 15th to 18th Centuries.
14. The Role of the State in Early-Modern Economic Development: A Case Study of Government Economic Policies in England, France, or the Netherlands. (Choose one, two, or three countries).
15. The Bank of England and the Wisselbank van Amsterdam in the late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: an Economic Comparison.
16. The Rise of English Banking: the Goldsmith banks, 1660 - 1720
17. The Decline of Spanish and Portuguese Economic Power ca. 1560 - ca. 1660: a comparative analysis.
18. *Colbertisme*: The Role of the French Government in Promoting Industrial Growth during the 17th and early 18th centuries.
19. The Economic and Social Problem of Poverty in Tudor-Stuart England: Causes and Remedies.
20. The Navigation Laws: Success or Failure in Promoting English Overseas Commerce and Industry, 1650 - 1800?
21. The North American and Caribbean colonies in the 18th century: Their Role in European Economic Conflicts, and their Importance for European Economic Development. (You may choose one or more of: England, France, the Netherlands, Spain).
22. Technological Innovations in European Agriculture, 16th to 18th Centuries: Their Impact on Agrarian and Economic Development.
23. The Origins and Development of the Joint-Stock Company in Western European Trade and Finance, 16th to 18th Centuries.

24. The National State and Taxation: a comparison of the tax burden in the economies of England, France, or the Netherlands in the 17th and 18th centuries. (Or choose two of these countries).
25. Financing England's National Debt, 1694 - 1753: Its Importance for English Economic Development and in the Evolution of Financial Institutions.
26. Financing the European Public Debts: the Role of *Rentes*, *Rentiers*, and Annuities in the Development of the European Financial System, 1500 - 1750.
27. The Role of the Textile Industries and Trade in English Commercial Expansion and Economic Development, 1450 - 1750.
28. The Origins of the European and English 'Cotton' Industries: 17th and 18th Centuries
29. The Importance of Africa to the European Economies, 1400 - 1750: Foreign Trade and Colonial 'Exploitation'
30. The Importance of India and the Indian Ocean basin for the European Economies, 1500 - 1750.
31. The Role of the Military Forces and Standing Armies in the Development of the West European Economies, 1450 - 1750.
32. The Development of Artillery and Fire-Arms in European Military Forces, 14th to 18th Centuries.
33. The Arts and Terror of Naval Warfare in Europe and Asia, 14th to 18th Centuries.
34. Problems of Capital Formation in the English (or European) Economy, 15th to 18th Centuries.
35. Excise Duties and Import Taxes: Fiscal or Mercantilist Policies in England (or France) during the 17th and 18th Centuries.

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 second 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.

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 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, 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)
8. Otherwise your essay must conform 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 “A” List topics, will be available for sale, in early January 2014 from:

Scholar House Productions
 100 Harbord Street (west of Spadina, north side of the street)
 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 lists 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 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.
- (f) Please note – once again – that there is no course-reader package for “B” topics; and that there is no guarantee that “B” List topics will appear on the final examination (but some may appear on the final examination).

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 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. Nevertheless, since this is an Economics course, the essay must be relevant to the subject matter of Economics: to economic history, rather to other forms of history. But you need not feel that you must employ economic theory (micro- or macro) or econometrics. Doing so, however, might well enhance the quality of your essay.

11. **Late-Penalties:** except for those with valid medical certificates, or those with documented family difficulties (for which no penalty will be imposed).

- a) Until the last day of classes: on 4 April 2014: 3% (out of 100% for the essay) for each full week of lateness. The penalty is not imposed, each week, until the full week has passed. Thus essays submitted by 5:00 on a Friday will not incur an extra penalty; but those submitted on the Monday will receive the extra week's penalty.
- b) Essays submitted after the last official day of classes, up to 5:00 pm on the following Tuesday, the day before final exams commence, will be subjected to a penalty of 25% (i.e., the mark awarded will be reduced by 25%).
- c) Essays submitted thereafter, and up to the day of the final examination for the course, will be subjected to a 50% penalty (i.e., the student will be credited with only half of the mark awarded).
- d) Any essays submitted after the final examination will be not received; and the mark recorded for the essay will be zero.
- e) **Note the regulations on term work in the Faculty of Arts and Science Calendar (St. George Campus):**

All term work must be submitted on or before the last day of classes in the course concerned, unless an earlier date is specified by the instructor. Students who for reasons beyond their control are unable to submit an assignment by its deadline must obtain approval from their instructor for an extension of the deadline. This extension may be for no longer than the end of the Final Examination period.

Consequently, my late-penalty provisions are really far more generous than are indicated by these regulations: note the words 'must be submitted on or before the last day of classes'.

And note also that exceptions are supposed to be granted only to those students whose inability to meet the deadline is beyond their control – and as noted if that is the reason for late submission, no penalties will be imposed.

I have, however, received permission from the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies to permit these more liberal provisions for lateness for those who have no valid excuse for not submitting the essay on time.

