

Economics 2210Y

Topics in the Economic and Social History of Later Medieval and Renaissance Europe

SELECTED SEMINAR TOPICS: for which NO prior of knowledge of Economics is required.

MONDAYS, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

TRINITY COLLEGE: LARKIN 203

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1. **Medieval European Demography and the Family:** (1) The Origins and Evolution of the European Marriage Pattern.
2. **Medieval European Demography and the Economy:** (2) Did Late-Medieval Population Growth Produce a Malthusian Crisis?
3. **Medieval European Demography and Disease:** (3) The Black Death, Later Plagues, and Economic *Conjoncture* in Late-Medieval European Society.
4. **The Social and Economic Structures of Medieval European Agriculture, 1260 - 1460:** Manorial and non-manorial agrarian regimes in southern and northern Europe; the Open-Field Systems of northern Europe: peasant agriculture and their crop-rotation systems.
5. **Agrarian Structural Changes during the Late Middle Ages, 1260 - 1460:** Italy, France, Spain, the Low Countries, England: new techniques, new crops, new forms of landholding.
6. **The Problem of 'Serfdom' in European Economic Development (I):** The Decline of Serfdom in the West, 13th to 15th Centuries.
7. **The Problem of 'Serfdom' in European Economic Development (II):** The Spread of Serfdom in the East (Germany, Poland, Russia, Bohemia, Hungary), 14th to 16th Centuries.
8. **The Role of Money in the Medieval Economy:** Money, Coinages, and Moneys-of-Accounts.
9. **Monetary Problems and Economic *Conjoncture*:** in Late-Medieval Europe, 1290 - 1460.
10. **The Church, Feudal Society, and Economic Attitudes:** the Usury Question.
11. **Banking, Credit, and Foreign Trade:** in the Late-Medieval Economy, 1250 - 1460.
12. **The Dynamics of Change in Late-Medieval Industry, 1250 - 1460:** Textile Manufacturing in Western Europe (Italy, the Low Countries, France, and England).
13. **Guilds, Women, and Urban Governments:** in the Late-Medieval European Economy, 1200 - 1500.
14. **Feudal Governments, Warfare, and Taxation:** in Late-Medieval Europe, 1290 - 1500.
15. **The 'Crisis of the Early Fourteenth Century':** Did western Europe experience a combined

demographic and economic crisis in the early fourteenth century?

16. **The ‘Great Depression’ of the Late Middle Ages:** the current debate about recession and prosperity in the late-medieval economy.
17. **The Late-Medieval ‘Standard of Living’ Debate:** Rising Real Wages and Growing Poverty?
18. **Economic ‘Recovery’ and Expansion in Europe:** 1450 - 1540.
19. **Demographic Changes and Population Growth in the European Economy:** 1450 to 1600: Was there (again) a Malthusian Crisis?
20. **Money, Credit, and Monetary Changes in the European Economy:** 1450 - 1600.
21. **Banking, Finance, and Public Credit:** in Late-Medieval and Early Modern Europe, to 1600.
22. **The European ‘Price Revolution,’ 1520 - 1640:** Monetary and Real Factors.
23. **Early-Modern Agriculture (I):** Agricultural Innovations in the Low Countries, 1320 - 1500.
24. **Early-Modern Agriculture (II):** The Diffusion of Agricultural Innovations in England during the 16th century.
25. **Early-Modern Agriculture (III):** The Enclosure Movements in Tudor England, 1460 - 1600.
26. **Early-Modern Agriculture (IV):** The ‘Rise of the Gentry’ Debate (the Tawney Thesis).
27. **Early-Modern Agriculture (V):** Social and Agrarian Changes in France, 1453 - 1650.
28. **Prices, Population, Prosperity, and Poverty:** in Tudor and early Stuart England, 1540 - 1700.
29. **Overseas Exploration, Maritime Expansion, and Colonization by Europeans, 1450 - 1600:** the Portuguese and Spanish Empires in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
30. **Changing Patterns of Mediterranean Commerce:** Italy, the Levant, and the Hispanic World, 1350 - 1600.
31. **The Hanseatic League and the Rise of the Dutch Commercial Empire:** 1350 - 1600.
32. **England, the Hanse, and the Netherlands:** International Commercial Rivalry, 1350 - 1600.
33. **Draperies Old and New:** the Transformations of the Textile Industries in the Low Countries, England, and France, 1450 - 1600.
34. **‘Protestantism and the Rise of Capitalism’:** the Weber-Tawney Thesis and Its Critics.
35. **The ‘General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century’:** the Debates engendered by the Hobsbawm and Trevor Roper thesis on the transition from ‘feudal’ to ‘capitalist’ societies, and the origins of the modern Industrial Revolution in Western Europe.