

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
Econ 483 – Section 1
Topics in Canadian Economic History
Winter 2015
Monday and Wednesday, 8:30-9:50 AM RCH 206

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ryan George

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The instructor will only respond to emails that include “Econ 483” or “Economic History” in the subject line of the message.

Course Description

Canada's economic development has involved many waves of investment, immigration and geographical expansion, along with more gradual processes of growth in scale and transformation in the organization of economic activity. In this course we study Canada's economic history relative to the international economy from the 18th Century to the 1980s. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of labour markets, capital formation and foreign investment, state co-ordination of the economy, evolution of transportation structures and appropriation of land.

Course Pre-Requisites

Econ 101 and Econ 102 are pre-requisites for the course. To enroll email Kayla McKinnon, Economics Undergraduate Coordinator, kmckinnon@uwaterloo.ca .

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Discuss dynamics of Canadian economic development.
- B. Bring an historical perspective to bear upon economic questions.

Required Text

- Kenneth Norrie, Douglas Owsram and J.C. Herbert Emery, *A History of the Canadian Economy*, 4th ed. (Toronto: Nelson, 2008). (Referred to as NOE below.)

A copy of the text is on reserve at a UW Porter library.

Readings Available on LEARN

- Lecture slides – notes to accompany the lectures.
- Announcements, guidelines for assignments and exams.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Seminar participation	6 meetings @ 2.5% each	15%
Midterm	Monday, February 22 nd	30%
Discussion Papers	2 essays at 10% each	20%
Final Examination	Exam Period (scheduled by Registrar's Office)	35%
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Total		100%

Seminar Participation

Over the course of the term there will be six (6) scheduled seminar (see course schedule for dates). Students should do the assigned readings and prepare notes on i) the argument of each author, and how effective it is, ii) the practical and policy implications of the research.

Student evaluation will depend upon the quality of contributions, not just the quantity, meaning the value of comments and questions is related to how well they stimulate and develop the discussion. Seminar participation accounts for 15% of the final grade.

Discussion Papers (2 essays)

In a short essay of (4 pages or 2000 words) offer a coherent answer to the question posed for the weekly readings (see *Seminar Readings* list). No additional research is required, but reference to other course materials is permitted. Please make use of footnotes (including page numbers) to reference passages of the articles that you are discussing. Papers should be submitted on the day that the articles are discussed. The *absolute* last day to submit the first discussion paper is February 10th. The *absolute* last day to submit the second discussion paper is March 30th. Discussion papers account for 20% of the final grade (10% each).

Midterm Examination

The midterm exam will be **held in class on Monday, February 22nd**. The exam will assess students' analytical understanding and knowledge of basic facts of Canadian economic development. A list of potential essay questions will be distributed in advance and students will then be asked to write two essays from a reduced list. The midterm carries a weight of 30%.

Final Examination

The final exam focuses on the last section of the course but also includes questions about long run issues and dynamics in Canadian Economic History. The format will be three essays. The date will be set by the Registrar's Office. The final exam carries a weight of 35%.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Week	Date	Meeting	Readings
1	Jan 4 Jan 6	Lecture: Central themes in Canadian Economic History Lecture: Approaches to Economic History	Norrie, Owram and Emery (NOE) Introduction "What is Economic History?" on http://www.historytoday.com/paul-adelman/what-economic-history
2	Jan 11 Jan 13	Lecture: First Nations and Early European Trade Seminar: 1. <i>Mercantilism and Development</i>	NOE Chs. 1-3
3	Jan 18 Jan 20	Lecture: Political Change and Economic Development: late 18 th Century Lecture: Colonial Economies: land and labour	NOE Chs. 4-6
4	Jan 25 Jan 27	Lecture: Transportation Infrastructure and Trade in Staples Seminar: 2. <i>Merchants, Banking and Trade</i>	NOE Chs. 7, 9
5	Feb 1 Feb 3	Lecture: Comparative Development and End of Imperial Preference Lecture: Building a Nation State: Land and Railways	NOE Chs. 8, 10
6	Feb 8 Feb 10	Lecture: Prairie settlement and the Wheat Boom Seminar: 3. <i>Investment and Development</i>	NOE Part 4 intro and Ch.11
7	Feb 15 Feb 17	No classes - Reading Week	
8	Feb 22 Feb 24	Midterm Lecture: Structural Change: new staples, labour and capital	NOE Chs. 12
9	Feb 29 Mar 2	Seminar: 4. <i>Labour Market 1900-1920</i> Lecture: Capital markets and Public Finance through WWI	NOE Chs. 13,14
10	Mar 7 Mar 9	Lecture: Boom and Bust: Roaring 20s and the Great Depression Lecture: WWII and after: industry and labour	NOE Chs. 15-18
11	Mar 14 Mar 16	Seminar: 5. <i>Government and the National Economy</i> Lecture: Post-war relations and the Era of Prosperity	NOE Chs. 19
12	Mar 21 Mar 23	Lecture: Cities and International Trade; Lecture: Regional Development and Federalism	NOE Chs. 20-22
13	Mar 28 Mar 30	Seminar: 6. <i>Dawn of the Neo-liberal Era</i> Lecture: Conclusion	

Seminar Readings – available through library e-reserves

1. *Mercantilism and Development of Colonies* – Essay Question: How did the 18th Century mercantilist policies of Britain and France influence the economic development of the settler colonies in the region that would become Canada?
 - Stanley Engerman “Mercantilism and overseas trade, 1700-1800,” Chapter 8 in Roderick Floud and Donald McCloskey eds. *Economic History of Britain since 1700* 2nd ed. (Cambridge: CUP, 1995).
 - Kevin H. O’Rourke, Leandro Prados de la Escosura and Guillaume Daudin, “Trade and Empire” Chapter 4 in Stephen Broadberry and Kevin H. O’Rourke eds. *Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe, Vol. 1: 1700-1870*, (Cambridge: CUP, 2010).

2. *Merchants, Banking and Trade* – Essay Question: How was entrepreneurial activity in the Canada’s oriented by geographical and social communities during the early 19th Century?
 - Gerald J.J. Tulchinsky, “The Business Community – Pattern of Involvement,” Chapter 2 in *River Barons: Montreal Businessmen and the Growth of Industry and Transportation 1837-53* (Toronto: UTP, 1977).
 - Peter Baskerville “Entrepreneurship and the Family Compact: York-Toronto, 1822-55” *Urban History Review* 9(3) (1981): 15-34.
 - W.T. Easterbrook and Hugh G.J. Aitken, “Money and Banking in Canadian Economic Development” Chapter 19 in *Canadian Economic History* (Toronto: Macmillan 1958).

3. *Investment and Development* – Essay Question: What factors account for the dramatic increase in domestic investment in Canada in 1900-1914?
 - A.K. Cairncross, “Investment in Canada, 1900-13” Chapter 7 in A.R. Hall *Export of Capital from Britain, 1870-1914*, (London: Methuen and Co., 1968).
 - Alan Green and M.C. Urquhart, “Factor and Commodity Flows in the International Economy of 1870-1914: A Multi-country View” *Journal of Economic History* 36(1) (March 1976): 217-252.

4. *Labour Market – turn of 20th Century to 1920s* – Essay Question: What were the main concerns of participants in the labour market around 1900? How did these differ by skill level, gender and ethnicity?
 - Donald Avery, “Immigrant Workers and the Canadian Economy” Chapter 1 in *Dangerous Foreigners European Immigrant Workers and Labour Radicalism in Canada, 1896-1932*, (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1979).
 - Peter Baskerville and Eric Sager “Seasonality, Occupations and Labour Markets”, Chapter 4 in *Unwilling Idlers: The Urban Unemployed and Their Families in Late Victorian Canada* (Toronto: UTP, 1998).
 - Morris Altman and Louise Lamontagne, 1996 “Gender Pay Inequality and Occupational Change in Canada, 1900-1930,” *Journal of Socio-Economics* 25(3): 285-309.

5. *Government and the National Economy* – Essay Question: Contrast the development of government control over the economy in the 1930s and 40s with the policy trajectory of the period.
- Alan Green and Mary Mackinnon “Interwar Unemployment and Relief in Canada” Chapter 10 in Barry Eichengreen and T.J. Hatton eds. *Interwar Unemployment in International Perspective* (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1988).
 - Jeffrey A. Keshen, “The Wartime Prices and Trade Board and the Accommodation Crisis” Chapter 3 in *Saints, Sinners and Soldiers: Canada’s Second World War* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004).
 - Robert Malcolm Campbell, “Precarious Circumstances: The Depression and World War II” Chapter 1 in *Grand Illusions: The Politics of the Keynesian Experience in Canada, 1945-75*, (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1987).
6. *Dawn of the Neo-liberal Era* – Essay Question: What accounts for the change in approach to macroeconomic management that took place during the 1970s?
- Clarence L. Barber and John C.P. McCallum, “Failure of Monetarism in Theory and Policy,” *Canadian Public Policy*, 7(supplement) (April 1981): 221-32.
 - David Wolfe, “The Rise and Demise of the Keynesian Era in Canada: Economic Policy, 1930-1982” in Michael S. Cross and Gregory S. Kealey, *Modern Canada, 1930-1980’s*, (Toronto : McClelland and Stewart, 1984).

Missed Work and Accommodation Regarding Assessment

If a student is unable to take the midterm exam for documented reasons, the weight of the midterm exam will be shifted to the final exam. ***Please note that students who decide to take an exam cannot be given accommodation after the fact due to illness or personal complicating factors that may have affected their performance.*** If you are not well on the day of an exam it is advisable that you not take the exam and obtain valid documentation of the circumstances of this decision.

Electronic Device Policy

To avoid disruptions to the learning environment handheld devices must be turned off during the lecture and laptops must be used strictly for lecture-related purposes. If a student’s use of a laptop becomes a distraction for adjacent students that student will be asked to discontinue its use.

Attendance Policy

Lectures are an important component of the learning process and should be attended regularly.

Faculty of Arts Statements

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Other sources of information for students:

Academic Integrity website (Arts) Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services) office (<https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services>), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (room 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.