

ECONOMICS 201Y1

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

SECOND TERM ESSAY TOPICS: WINTER-SPRING TERM 2002

Second-term essays are due on Friday, 22 March 2002, except for part-time students and those who have obtained legitimate extensions. For part-time students (those enrolled in Woodsworth College or those certified by their College Registrar now to be part-time students), the due date is Wednesday, 3 April 2002. No essays will be accepted after the last official day of classes, on Friday, 12 April 2002.

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/munro5/201out.pdf>

**Be sure also to consult the handout 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>

See also Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Waveland Press, Illinois, 2000).

**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**, i.e. journal articles, monographs, book-collection of essays, etc. You may also use and cite sources from general textbooks, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, CD-Rom collections, and internet/web cites; but these must be *in addition to the five published academic sources*.
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. Otherwise your essay must conform with the other regulations set out in the *Instructions on Writing Term Essays*.

### ESSAY TOPICS FOR THE SECOND TERM, January - April 2002:

#### A. MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS:

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

**<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/201TUTOP.pdf>**

6. The Population Problem and the Economic Development of Early-Modern Europe (1500 - 1640): Was there a 'Malthusian Trap'? [13]
7. The 'Rise of Capitalism' and The Protestant Reformations: the Weber-Tawney Theses on the 'Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,' 16th - 18th Centuries. [15]
8. The 'Rise of the Gentry' Debate: On the Origins of Modern 'Agrarian Capitalism'. [17]
9. The 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century,' 1620-1740: the Hobsbawm Thesis on the Transition from 'Feudalism to Capitalism'. [Topic 20]
10. Mercantilism: Money, Economic Nationalism, and the State in Early-Modern Europe. [Topic 24]

### 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 25 topics, I have supplied a complete and usually very lengthy bibliography, organized by sub-topics within this debate; and these bibliography sets also contain statistical tables, graphs, maps, etc. They are also available on my Home Page, both in html (without graphs, etc.) and pdf formats. For those without internet access available, I can supply a print-out of the bibliography (without graphs or maps), on order, for the cost price of \$3.00 per set (including PST and GST). I can also send you, as an internet attachment (i.e. with e-mail), the WordPerfect computer file for any of these bibliographies; and such files should be readily convertible into MS Word.
- (d) A set of readings, consisting of two articles for each of these five topics, is available for sale, from Scholar House Productions, which will deliver them to the University.
- (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.

### **B. OTHER AVAILABLE TOPICS FROM THE MASTER LIST:**

#### Notes:

- a) If you finally decide that you do not want to do any of the above topics in section A -- i.e. topics nos. 13, 15, 17, 20, and 24 drawn from the Master List, you may indeed choose instead to select another other Second-Term topic provided in the Master List, i.e. to choose from the other seven topics not selected as the primary topics for the course this year, which are thus nos. 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, and 25.

- b) Please note carefully that all of the preceding topics, i.e. nos.1 - 12 , were and are strictly reserved for the first term.
- c) For each of these topics, I can similarly provide you with a one-page free handout, listing the major readings and question; and/or I can also supply a complete and often very lengthy bibliography, with additional questions, statistical tables, graphs, maps, etc. They will be available, by early January 2002, in the same formats discussed above.
- d) 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.
- e) There is no guarantee that the subject matter of these secondary (B category) topics will appear on the final examination.

**Other Acceptable Essay Topics from the Master List:**

- 14. The Era of the European ‘Price Revolution’, ca. 1540-1640: Inflation and Economic Growth.
- 16. The Social Costs of Agricultural Modernization: The Tudor-Stuart Enclosure Movements in England, from ca. 1480 to ca. 1700.
- 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.
- 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’?
- 25. The Economic Decline of the Netherlands in the Eighteenth Century: Absolute or Relative?

**C. OTHER 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, 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 for the 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.