



Department of Economics and
Finance

ECON*2420
Canadian Economic
History
Winter 2014



Instructor: K.E. Inwood, Office Rm. 716 (tel. x53536)
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Office Hours: 15:30–16:20 Mondays and Wednesdays, and by appointment

Class hours: 14:30-15:20, MWF, LA 204

It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University policies regarding academic misconduct, e-mail communication, maintaining copies of out-of class assignments, what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement and the drop date for this semester. To better understand these policies, visit:
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/economics/node/1115>

Course Description

This course examines the evolution of the Canadian economy with particular emphasis on the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The main focus is to understand long-term patterns in an international context using relevant theories of economic change.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ☐ Understand the evolution and development of the Canadian economy in the global context.
- ☐ Appreciate historical developments that led to different trajectories of economic change in different regions and in different periods.
- ☐ Appreciate somewhat how it is possible to advance research about the economic past.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to prepare for lectures by studying the assigned readings, taking notes during lectures, and keeping abreast of information posted on the course website (see “Courselink” below).

Required Course Textbook

The primary text is: Kenneth Norrie, Douglas Owsam and J.C. Herbert Emery, A History of the Canadian Economy (Thomson, 2008, 4th edition).

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated with two midterms, one written assignment and one final exam. Instructions for assignments and guidelines for the exam will be given in class.

First mid-term exam	20%	in class, Wed. Feb. 5
Second mid-term exam	20%	in class, Wed. March 19
Written assignment	10%	Monday March 31
Final exam	50%	Tuesday April 8

Other Information

Courselink

The course website is located on Courselink and will serve as a repository for information pertinent to required readings, exams, lectures, and the like, as well as provide a forum for discussion and commentary on course material.

Course and Instructor Evaluation

You will be asked to complete an evaluation of this course at some time during the last two weeks of the semester. The Department of Economics policy regarding the conduct and use of these evaluations will be found at <http://www.economics.uoguelph.ca/Courses/evaluationintro.htm>

Learning Outcomes

Skills:

- 1) Written Communication: There are three exam assignments and a small term assignment that will be graded with the usual prose writing criteria. They will require students to describe and evaluate historical arguments using economic analysis.
- 2) Historical Problem Solving: Students will be expected to describe and analyze historical outcomes of economic problems, and be evaluated on the exams.
- 3) Professional and ethical awareness and conduct. Students will show academic integrity on written exams and assignments.

Knowledge:

- 1) Historical and Global context: Students will be expected to understand and analyze the macroeconomic fundamentals undergirding historical change, along with social context.
- 2) Understanding of Specific Markets: Students will understand the particular trajectory of Canadian economic development and compare it to other markets.
- 3) Economic Policy and Regulation: The role of state action in the economy is crucial and students will understand and demonstrate understanding of aspects of the monetary, fiscal, and structural component of economic growth.
- 4) Financial Asset Pricing: Some understanding of the role of asset pricing and exchanges in the Great Depression will be gained by students.

Weekly Schedule

Monday January 6	lecture: Introduction and course organization
Wednesday January 8	lecture: Approaches to Cdn economic history
Friday January 10	lecture: The Atlantic World to 1763, chapter 1-2
Monday January 13	lecture: New France, chapter 3
Wednesday January 15	lecture: Atlantic region, chapter 4
Friday January 17	lecture: Quebec/Lower Canada, chapter 5
Monday January 20	lecture: Upper Canada, chapter 6
Wednesday January 22	lecture: Fur trade and the West, chapter 7
Friday January 24	tba
Monday January 27	lecture: International context c1860, chapter 8
Wednesday January 29	lecture: The first railway boom, chapter 9
Friday January 31	lecture: Political Union in 1867, chapter 10
Monday February 3	lecture: Agriculture, east and west, chapter 11
Wednesday February 5	in-class test
Friday February 7	lecture: Industrialization and tariffs, chapter 12
Monday February 10	lecture: Early days of a growth industry, hockey
Wednesday February 12	written assignment I
Friday February 14	no class
Monday February 24	lecture: Impact of the wheat boom
Wednesday February 26	lecture: Services, utilities and gov't, chapter 13
Friday February 28	lecture: WWI, Chapter 14
Monday March 3	lecture: Post-WWI and the 1920s, Chapter 15
Wednesday March 5	lecture: Regional Patterns, Chapter 16
Friday March 7	how to conduct research (14:30-17:20)
Monday March 10	lecture: Great Depression, Chapter 17
Wednesday March 12	lecture: Aboriginal population and economy
Friday March 14	tba
Monday March 17	written assignment II
Wednesday March 19	in-class test
Friday March 21	lecture: transition post-WWII and international economy
Monday March 24	lecture: post-WWII, text Part 6
Wednesday March 26	lecture: post-WWII, text Part 6
Friday March 28	no class, completion of assignments
Monday March 31	lecture: Long-term Cdn population and labour market
Wednesday April 2	tba
Friday April 4	review