HISTORY 1807
The History of Business and Commerce
Fall/Winter 2021-2022
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:20 am [in person]

Instructor: Dr. Peter V. Krats
Office Hours: TBA
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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course Description:
This course examines the history of business and capitalism from the late Middle Ages to the present day. Particular attention will be paid to the history of credit, banking, the stock market, the corporation, and globalization.

Antirequisite(s):
History 1803E

Course Syllabus:

Expectations: Attending lectures should provide broad outlines and suggest ideas that students can, with the addition of careful reading of course materials should facilitate successful participation and written results. Participating in mandatory weekly tutorials and the lectures should also aid students prepare for course tests and a final examination. Success on these tests tasks and the final exam relies on a student’s familiarity with the readings and their understanding of larger themes in the course. In short, success relies significantly on your thought and effort in the course.

Course Materials: TENTATIVE [other readings on OWL]

Methods of Evaluation: TENTATIVE
Course grading has been designed to offer a wide range of opportunities to show skills in written and oral communication, thought, synthesis of ideas and spontaneous collaboration with classmates. A final exam will seek overall awareness and understanding while hopefully not being overwhelming.
double-spaced; no need for any outside research. Proper English expected.

Tutorial Reaction Papers: 5% (2.5% each) [1 each term] – one page [double-spaced] reaction to ideas raised by reading[s] for that week – offer ideas not simply a summary. Proper English expected.

Tutorial: 20% - based on active presence in Tutorial – the quality of ideas and information is more significant than the quantity, but you need to be heard. Students will be assessed on the regularity of their attendance throughout the year, their knowledge of assigned readings, and their ability to discuss those reading within the broader themes of the course. [through ZOOM or similar format]

OWL online tutorial “chat”: 10% -- casual “conversation” [postings] amongst members of your Tutorial on issues, questions, rebuttals and more emerging from other class work (lectures, tutorials). This is meant to be a relaxed discussion, but it is important to maintain standard of politeness. The chat can help with understanding issues while also offering a platform for easily-earned marks.

“History Taught Me” paper – 20% -- three to four double-spaced pages on the most significant idea that has occurred to you because of the lectures / tutorials to this point of the course. This paper will be due in the latter part of the course. No outside research required but proper English is expected.

Final Exam (Apr.) 30% - 3 hours; the exam will test students’ awareness of events and concepts from the course – a good paper features both sound ideas and useful historical examples in support.

Extensions for late papers and allowance for missed tutorials will only be available for reasons deemed suitable under the regulations established by the University. See the information at the end of this document. If in doubt during the term, be sure to consult with your Tutorial leader and/or the Professor as soon as possible. Longer absences or other academic issues will require that documentation be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:
If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Course Schedule: TENTATIVE LECTURES
Introduction // Modern Definitions & Ideas

PRECURSORS TO CAPITALISM
Rise of Economic Systems and Pre-Capitalist Economies – Historical Contexts and Debates

THE ORIGINS OF CAPITALISM
Mercantilist Globalization at Work Eurocentric Views
Mercantilist Globalization: The View from Beyond Europe

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
The Concept of Divergence
Divergence from the “Other” Side: Industrialization Missing? Or Different?
Unfree Labour & the Spread of Capitalism. Indigenous Genocide, Slavery, and Other Forced Labour

TOWARD “UNFETTERED INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM? : THE LONG 19th Century
The Modern Corporation / Capitalist Institutions
Reshaping Production – New Technologies and Concepts
Laissez-faire? – Examining the Role of Government & the Regulation of Business
Workers Challenge the New Models

MODERN TIMES: The World of Keynesianism
Crises: War, Booms & Busts & Great Depression
Business-Government Symbiosis – Capitalism in Action
Consumerism and Affluence – A Better Globalization?

[POST??]-MODERN GLOBAL CAPITALISM?
Japan, South Korea, Taiwan & more
China and India: Re-emergent Giants
Globalization for Struggling Economies?

OIL SHOCKS: STAGFLATION, RE-IMAGINED CAPITALISM AND FINANCIAL CRISES
De-Industrialization / New forms / Deregulation – The Collapse of the Postwar System
Neoliberalist Monetarism Takes Hold // Neo-liberalism and its Paradoxes of Deregulation
Globalization, Work and Workers’ Lives

WHERE ARE WE // WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
The Economic Meltdown 2008 – Financial Crisis & Inequality
The Future of Global Capitalism in the Age of Covid?

CLOSING SHOP
Conclusions / Exam Considerations

Use of Electronic Devices:
No electronic devices will be permissible for use for the Final examination. Use in lectures at the discretion of the professor – objectionable or distracting use forbidden.

Additional Statements:
Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness