

HISTORY 1807
The History of Business and Commerce
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:20 pm [in person]

Instructor: 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 delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (ie., on Zoom asynchronously (eg., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

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]

Jürgen Kocka, *Capitalism: A Short History*. Princeton University Press, 2016.

John Micklethwaite and Adrian Wooldridge, *The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea*. Penguin Random House Canada, 2003.

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.

*Students must attend at least **half** of the seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.*

*Students must submit the Early Course Reaction paper **and** History Taught Me paper in order to pass the course.*

Early Course Reaction paper: 15 %. [October] Your main thoughts on material covered thus far. Two to three pages 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.

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 % -- [March] 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.

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

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