

History 1807 (001)
History of Business and Commerce
2024-25

Instructor: Dr. Peter V. Krats

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Office Hours: Each week I will be available for student questions and concerns. Hours tba but immediately after class or by appointment.

This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

This course examines the history of business and commerce from the earliest exchanges to Covid-19's impact. Particular attention will be paid to the history of credit, banking, the stock market, corporations, and globalization. But we extend beyond institutions of business to examine the rise of trade and business; the global evolution of business and the various consequences, good and bad, of business practices.

Antirequisite

History 1803E

Course Syllabus

Expectations: Attending lectures is expected; they should provide broad themes and ideas that students can, with the addition of careful reading of course materials, facilitate successful participation and written results. Participating in weekly tutorials is **mandatory**: if more than 50% of tutorials are missed, students will fail the course. The tutorial and lectures should also aid student preparation for the final examination, which relies on a student's familiarity with course issues and an understanding of *larger themes* of the course. In short, student success relies significantly on your thought and effort in the course.

Methods of Evaluation

Course grading offers a range of opportunities to show skills in written and oral communication, thought, synthesis of ideas, and spontaneous collaboration with classmates. Dates tba.

Early Course Reaction paper: 10 %. [October] Your main thoughts on material covered thus far.

Two to three pages double-spaced; no need for any outside research. Proper English.

Tutorial Reaction Papers: 10 % (2.5 % each) [2 each term] – one page [double-spaced] reaction

to ideas raised by reading[s] that week – offer ideas **not** just a summary. Proper English.

Tutorial: 25 % - 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** reading within the broader themes of the course.

Lecture Considerations: (5 %) On random occasions a lecture will be devoted to discussion of topics arising from materials “at play” in lectures and/or tutorials. Group-based participation and, it need not be said, attendance factor into the grade.

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

Final Exam (April) 30% - 3 hours; the exam will test students’ awareness of events and concepts from the course – good papers feature sound ideas *and* useful historical examples.

Make-up exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Extensions for late papers worth less than 10 % 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 paragraph. Be sure to consult with your Tutorial leader and/or the Professor **as soon as possible**. Longer absences or missed work of greater mark value will require 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. For more detail: Social Science Academic Counselling on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university’s policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History’s own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)).

Course-specific conditions

Students must submit the Early Course Reaction paper and History Taught Me paper to pass the course. Students **must attend at least half** of the tutorial meetings to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.

Course Materials

[TENTATIVE]

The course features assigned readings for most tutorials. Most readings will be available online, most through Weldon Library URL links, or the Course OWL site. In addition, these brief books **may** be assigned to support and contrast with the lecture material.

Jairus Banaji. *A Brief History of Commercial Capitalism*. Haymarket Books, 2020.

John Micklethwaite and Adrian Wooldridge. *The Company*. The Modern Library, 2003.

Course Schedule **TENTATIVE** LECTURE TOPICS

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 post Covid ?

Conclusions / Exam Considerations

Additional Statements

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.

Students must obtain permission before using generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for any assignments in this course. Using these tools without my permission puts your academic integrity at risk. Even if permitted, **any** use of such tools must be clearly acknowledged. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Important Department Policy Note:

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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