

# **HIST 425/525**

## **Economic History of Modern Europe**

### **European Industrialization**

Winter Term 2015  
4:00 – 5:20 pm Tues/Thurs  
301 Gerlinger Hall

CRN 25948 (HIST 425)  
CRN 25949 (HIST 525)

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359 McKenzie Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 – 12:45

### **Brief Description**

The course addresses the theme of industrialization in Europe prior to 1914. The term “industrialization” refers to a complex of economic, social, and legal changes said to have occurred first in England during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This is commonly called the “industrial revolution.” English industrialization represented one case of a larger world process of constituting modern economies and societies. The English case will be used to focus the study of the key features of industrialization. These features will be approached thematically throughout the term, in terms of most of the major topics addressed in the economic history of the industrial revolution. Comparisons and contrasts with other European countries will be introduced primarily through specially designed overviews for each thematic topic. These will be posted on the *Blackboard* site for the course. In addition, students are encouraged to include other European countries, besides England, in their research for the second paper for the course.

The class sessions will consist of both lectures and discussion of readings. The extent of class time dedicated to lecture as compared with discussion will vary from week to week according to the topic and the complexity of the material. The content of lectures and readings is heavily economic. While this does not require formal knowledge of economics or previous economics courses, the economic aspects of industrialization are the focus of the course. However, some social themes will be addressed, notably gender.

### **Requirements**

The course requirements are:

- Two papers (described below): First paper due Feb. 5 (Thursday);  
Second paper due March 12 (Thursday)
- Mid-term examination on Feb. 12 (Thursday) in class
- Final examination on March 18 (Wednesday), 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Details on the paper requirements are as follows:

## **Course Papers**

### **First Paper (due February 5)**

The first paper will focus on a single book, chosen from one of the books provided on a list that will be distributed in class. The paper may take one of two approaches: (1) address the overall thesis or argument of the book, with elaboration on specific points of that thesis or argument using examples or analytical reflections taken from the book, OR (2) elaborate one or more sub-themes of the book, developed at length with examples and points from the book. Neither approach requires additional research beyond reading the book. The paper may NOT be a mere summary of the contents of the book (sometimes referred to as a “book report”). The paper must demonstrate extensive reading of the entire book, not only a particular section. Minimum length of the paper is five (5) pages, 12-point type, or the equivalent (about 1500 words).

### **Second Paper (due March 12)**

The second paper will focus on a topic of the student’s choice that addresses any theme relating to the economic or social history of any European country, or combination of countries, in the period of the course. For purposes of this assignment, this period extends from the late 1600s to 1914. The paper must make extensive use of books and/or journal articles located in Knight Library or sources available online through the Search engine of the Knight Library website. No other online sources may be used for the paper. Formal minimum specifications for the paper are the following:

- Two scholarly books
- One scholarly book plus two academic journal articles
- Five academic journal articles

Books and articles assigned for weekly reading on this syllabus do not qualify for this minimum. These may be used but only in addition to the above minimum.

Each of the books and articles used for the research paper must be listed in a bibliography included with the paper. The bibliography should provide the following details on each book and article used for the paper:

- For books: complete name of author, complete title and subtitle (if any), place and date of publication, name of publisher, and Knight Library call number, or other identification of the source and location of the book or article
- For articles: complete name of author or authors of the article, complete title of the article, title of the scholarly journal, details on the issue of the journal in which the article appears (eg month and year, volume, number), and the pages of the journal in which the article appears.

Minimum length of the second paper is ten (10) pages, 12-point type, or the equivalent (about 3000 words).

## **Course Grade**

The course grade will be determined as follows:

- Course papers: 40% The second paper will be weighted more heavily than the first paper
- Mid-term examination: 20%
- Final examination: 40%

Demonstration of exceptional performance in class discussion will be taken into account in determining the course grade.

## **Graduate Students (HIST 525)**

Graduate students are responsible for all assigned readings and content of lectures and discussions. They will be required to demonstrate their assimilation of these on the mid-term and final examinations. They will not do course papers as outlined above, but rather will undertake a major (20-30 page) independent research and writing project as determined in individual consultation with the instructor. The cumulative grades on examinations (mid-term exam, final exam) and the grade on the course paper will be weighted approximately equally for determination of the final grade of the course.

## **Course Materials**

The course text [The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain 1700 - 1850](#) by Joel Mokyr is available for purchase in the University of Oregon Bookstore. Assigned readings other than those in [The Enlightened Economy](#) are to be found on the **Blackboard** site for the course, indicated as such for each week. Among these other assigned readings will be a set of essays, written by the instructor, that develop the theme or themes of the week with reference to Continental Europe. Students are responsible for the content of these essays whether or not they are discussed in class.

## **Learning Objectives:**

- Acquire a familiarity with broad processes of comparative industrialization in the historical experience of Europe
- Acquire a precise knowledge of the key elements operating in each of the sectors of the economy explored in this course (agriculture, technology, manufactures, etc.) as causes of industrial development and transformation, especially in the case of Britain

- Develop a basic familiarity with major economic concepts and relationships as these pertained to European industrialization in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
- Develop an understanding of the role of institutions and human agency as compared with material conditions and circumstances in the historical transformation of European economies in the period of this course

## Required Common Readings

### *Text Reference:*

- **Enlightened Economy**: Joel Mokyr, The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain 1700 - 1850
- **Europe**: specially designed essays on continental Europe posted on *Blackboard*
- **Source Reading**: Extracts from writings of the period by various authors, including political economy, posted on *Blackboard*

### **Week 1 (January 6 and 8): Introductory Elements**

- **Enlightened Economy**, Introduction and chapters 1-3

### **Week 2 (January 13 and 15): Industrialization – Britain and Europe**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapters 5-6
- **Europe**, Comparative models and patterns of European industrialization

### **Week 3 (January 20 and 22): Agriculture**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapter 9
- **Europe**: Institutional change and agricultural development
- **Source Reading**: *Annals of Agriculture*

### **Week 4 (January 27 and 29): Technology**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapter 7
- **Europe**, Traditions and innovations in industrial processes

### **Week 5 (February 3 and 5): Manufactures**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapters 12 and 15
- **Europe**, From artisans to industrialists
- **Source Reading**: Andrew Ure

*First paper due: Thursday, February 5*

**Week 6 (February 10 and 12): Markets and Transport**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapter 10
- **Source Reading**: Adam Smith and Jean-Baptiste Say

*Mid-term Examination: Thursday, February 12 (in class)*

**Week 7 (February 17 and 19): Population and Living Standards**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapters 13 and 18
- **Europe**, Comparative demography
- **Source Reading**: Thomas Malthus

**Week 8 (February 24 and 26): Gender**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapter 14
- **Europe**, Various gender topics
- Women's work in the age of manufactures (*Blackboard*)
- Middle class women and employment (*Blackboard*)

**Week 9 (March 3 and 5): Big Pictures – the World and the State**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapters 8 and 17
- **Source Reading**: David Ricardo

**Week 10 (March 10 and 12): Values, Attitudes and Institutions**

- **Enlightened Economy**, chapters 11, 16, 19

*Second paper due: Thursday March 12*

*Final Examination: March 18 (Wednesday) 12: 30 pm*