

ECONOMICS 3319 -TERM PAPER TOPICS AND GUIDELINES-FALL 2019

As part of the requirements for this course, you will be required to prepare and submit a short term paper on a topic in Canadian economic history. This paper, including footnotes, tables, graphs and bibliography must not exceed 10 double spaced typed pages. Any format or style will do provided that it is consistent. The style of the *Canadian Journal of Economics* is suitable. The paper is worth 20% of your final grade and is due November 28th. For each day the paper is late after this date, 5 percent will be deducted from the value of the grade obtained on the paper. A list of potential resources organized by course outline division follows the topics.

TOPICS

- (1) Confederation was the tool used by central Canada to reap the economic benefits of industrialization by treating the rest of the country as a natural resource producing hinterland. Discuss.
- (2) The New Institutional approach to economic history says that new institutional arrangements will be innovated if the perceived benefits of a new arrangement exceed the costs of the arrangement. Using this line of argument, explain why free trade or reciprocity with the Americans came about in 1988 but not 1911.
- (3) The National Policy was a failure because it promoted extensive growth at the expense of intensive growth. Do you agree and why?
- (4) As an economic construct, Canada is "inefficient" because the east-west axis created by Confederation runs against the natural north-south grain of the continent. Use examples from Canadian economic history to argue whether or not you support this view.
- (5) Using the resources of the City of Thunder Bay Archives, sample, collect and analyze a small set of historical micro-data from the early 20th century. What do the results tell you about property ownership at the Lakehead during this period?
- (6) Using the resources of the Old Fort William Library, collect a sample of North West Company employment contracts and analyze them for insight into wages during the fur trade era.
- (7) Was Canadian economic growth between 1896 and 1914 export-led or were other factors more important?
- (8) Explain why Northern Ontario's economic development has lagged behind that of Southern Ontario in terms of manufacturing development.

- (9) Did the public sector aid or hinder Canadian economic growth and development?
- (10) What factors brought about the creation of the Bank of Canada in 1935?
- (11) What economic factors helped bring about the creation of Ontario Hydro?
- (12) Compare and contrast the role of economic staples in driving the economic development of Canada, the United States and Mexico during the period after 1750.
- (13) Collecting data for the Canadian economy over the period 1870-2005, run a regression that explains the growth of the Canadian public sector during this period.
- (14) What was the extent of economic inequality in late 19th century Canada and how did it compare to other countries?
- (15) Analyze the evolution of Canadian health spending from 1926 to the present period using the resources of Historical Statistics of Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information.
- (16) 1901 Census Data Collection Project: Collect and analyze a set of individual level data from the 1901 Census of Canada available at Automated Genealogy Index: http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/. Consult with instructor if this is the topic you wish to do.

LIST OF READINGS FOR ESSAY TOPIC RESEARCH

I. Theory and Overview

Abramovitz, Moses "The Search for Sources of Growth: Areas of Ignorance, Old and New" Journal of Economic History, June 1993, 217-243.

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II. Economic Development Prior to 1850

Carlos, A. and E. Hoffman (1986) "The North American Fur Trade: Bargaining to a Joint Profit Maximum Under Incomplete Information, 1804-1821" JEH, Vol. XLVI, pp. 967-986 and in Perspectives on Canadian Economic History 2nd Edition, pp. 38-56.

Carlos, A. and F. Lewis (1999) "Property Rights, Competition, and Depletion in the eighteenth-century Canadian fur trade: the role of the European market," Canadian Journal of Economics, Vol. 32, No. 3, 1999, 705-728.

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IV. The Industrialization of Central Canada

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VI. Government Policy and the Economy

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VII. Regional Variations in Economic Development

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VIII. Wealth And Wealth Inequality in Canada in the Late 19th Century

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IX. The Great Depression in Canada

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