

Department of History

SEMESTER I YEAR 1979-80

WARNING: NOT CURRENT; MAY NOT MATCH COURSE CONTENT EXACTLY.

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
121	Economic Development of the Western World	Sella

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will survey, in broad outline, the economic development of Europe from the Middle Ages to the Industrial Revolution and its implications for western society.

After a discussion of the distinctive features of early medieval Europe (and notably its closed agrarian economy and its feudal structure), attention will be trained on the profound changes which Europe witnessed from the 11th century onward under the impact of population pressure, technological progress, the development of trade, and the rise of the cities.

The next major topic will be the story of overseas expansion: this will include a discussion of both its impact on Europe and the emergence of colonial economies. The case of Holland will then be examined as the most telling illustration of the strengths and weaknesses of commercial capitalism.

The last two weeks in the semester will be devoted to the origins and early stages of modern industrialization as it developed in Britain and as it affected living conditions and social structures there.

LECTURES

Three lectures and one discussion section each week.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS

A six-weeks exam; a twelve-weeks exam; a two-hour final exam.

GRADING SYSTEM

Six-weeks exam = 25%; twelve-weeks exam = 25%; final exam = 50%

REQUIRED READINGS (All Paperbacks)

Ashton, The Industrial Revolution  
Painter, Medieval Society  
Parry, The Establishment of the European Hegemony  
Pirenne, Medieval Cities  
Wilson, The Dutch Republic

Selected chapters will be read from the following books (available in the Reserve Book Room): Smith, An Historical Geography of Europe and Duby, Rural Economic and Country Life in the Medieval West