

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester I Year 81-82

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
121	THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN WORLD	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The object of the course is to survey the development of the European economy from the breakdown of ancient civilization to the Industrial Revolution.

After a discussion of the distinctive features of early modern Europe (and notably its closed agrarian economy and its feudal structure), attention will be focused on the dramatic changes Europe witnessed from the 11th century: population growth, the rise of the cities, technological progress, and the development of trade.

The next major topic will be the story of overseas expansion and its impact on Europe. This will include a discussion of the emerging colonial economies as well as the shifts in economic power from the Mediterranean to the North Atlantic.

The last two weeks of the semester will be devoted to the origins and early stages of modern industrialization as it developed in Britain.

LECTURES

Three lectures and one discussion section each week.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

a) two one-hour exams (6th and 12th weeks); one two-hour final.

GRADING SYSTEM

The final grade in the course will be determined according to the following schedule: one-hour exams = 25% each; two-hour final = 50%.

REQUIRED READINGS

Required textbooks (all paperbacks): CIPOLLA, Before the Industrial Revolution; PAINTER, Medieval Society; PIRENNE, Medieval Cities; NOWELL, The Great Discoveries; ASHTON, The Industrial Revolution.