ECONOMICS 331
Economic History of North America to 1865

Fall 2009
Monday at 1:00 pm; Wednesday at 11:30 pm.
Location - Dunning 10

http://www.qed.econ.queensu.ca/faculty/lewis/econ331/

Office Hours:  
Monday: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
or by appointment

Grade Distribution:  
Mid-term Test - 20%
Essay - 30%
Final Exam - 50%


All the texts have been placed on Reserve in Stauffer Library.

The required readings are available in a course package, available through the Copy Center (P&CC), can be purchased at the Green Room (JDUC, first floor). Journal articles can also be downloaded from the web-based journal archives, available through the Queen’s library home page.

Objectives of the Course:

The central purpose of this course is to introduce students to research on the development of Canada and the United States in the years prior to the 1860s. Throughout we use economic reasoning to help explain aspects of North America's past, and the topics include major developments that shaped the North American Economy. Among the themes to be discussed are...
the aboriginal economy, early income growth and the relation of income to nutrition and stature, human and physical capital accumulation, migration and settlement, agricultural and industrial productivity change, slavery, and commercial policy. Taken as a whole the topics, although by no means exhaustive, illustrate how scholars have combined evidence and theory to further our understanding of history and economic development.

**Mid-Term** Monday, October 26 - in class.

**Term Paper**

A research paper is required of every student. Suggested topics plus some bibliographical material will be distributed. If a student wishes to write on a topic not on the list, permission should be obtained prior to beginning work on the essay. The paper should be about 14 to 16 pages in length (double spaced), and should include sources for all quotations, tables, charts and so on.

**Reading List** (* indicates a required reading)

**INTRODUCTION** Cliometrics - The "New" Economic History


**PART I: Early Colonial Development**

**A. Overview: Canada to 1763**

1. Norrie et al., chapters 1-3.

**B. The Aboriginal Economy and the Fur Trade**


**A. Migration to the American Colonies - Indentured Servitude**


**PART II: Economic Growth and Productivity Change**

**A. Growth in Pre-industrial North America**

1. Norrie et al., chapter 6.

2. Atack and Passell, chapters 1 and 2.


B. Labour and Early Industrialization


C. Agricultural Productivity

(i) Agriculture Productivity in Lower Canada

1. Norrie et al., chapter 5.


(ii) Diffusion of Technology


PART II: Aspects of Slavery in the Americas

A. Profitability of Slavery in the U.S. South
1. Atack and Passell, chapters 11, 12 and 13.


B. Incentives and the Productivity of the Slave System


C. The Cost of the Civil War


PART III: Human and Physical Capital Accumulation

A. Income, Nutrition and Human Stature


*4. A. Carlos and F. Lewis, Commerce by a Frozen Sea, chapter 7 and appendix (mimeo).

B. Capital Accumulation

(i) Savings and Demographic Change
(ii) The Building and Financing of Early Canadian Railways

1. Norrie et al., chapter 9.


PART IV: Trade and Commercial Policy

A. Canada-U.S. Reciprocity

1. Norrie et al., chapter 8.


B. Tariffs and Infant Industries: The Case of Cotton Textiles

1. Atack and Passell, chapter 5.


Abbreviations of Periodicals

*A.E.R.* - American Economic Review  
*C.J.E.* - Canadian Journal of Economics  
*E.E.H.* - Explorations in Economic History  
*J.E.H.* - Journal of Economic History  
*J.P.E.* - Journal of Political Economy  
*Q.J.E.* - Quarterly Journal of Economics