

HSTW 345
Networks and Empires:
Economic History of the Atlantic World

Framingham State University

Dr. Joseph M. Adelman

Fall 2014

MW 12:30-1:20

Th 12:30-2:20

May Hall 111A

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Office hours: M 10:30-11:20, Th 2:30-4:20,
and by appointment



CATALOG DESCRIPTION

An exploration of the economic, business, and social history of the Atlantic world from 1450-1800. The course examines developments in Europe, Africa, and the

Americas, with special attention to the interactions and competition among the British, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch empires. Topics may include the economic ideologies that underlay European imperial expansion, technologies of transportation and communication, the economics of slavery, trading encounters with Native peoples, and changing ideas about consumption.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to, among other things:

- Articulate the concept and uses of both economic history and Atlantic history as tools of analysis;
- Compare and contrast the experiences of different European empires and peoples in Africa, North America, and South America during the period under study;
- Utilize and explain quantitative historical evidence;
- Explain how historians studied in this course have contributed to historiographic debates about the Atlantic world and economic history.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE MEETINGS

NOTE: All dates and assignments are subject to change. Please be aware of any announcements made in class, via the course website, or on Blackboard.

All readings are due on the date listed in the syllabus. Any reading without a hyperlink will be made available in Blackboard.

Unit I: Background and Key Concepts

Week 1

W 9/3 Introduction to the Course

Th 9/4 What is Atlantic history?

- David Armitage, "Three Concepts of Atlantic History," in *The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800*, 2nd ed., edited by David Armitage and Michael J. Braddick (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 13-29.
- Cécile Vidal, "The Reluctance of French Historians to Address Atlantic History," *Southern Quarterly* 43 (2006): 153-89.
- Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, "Some Caveats About the 'Atlantic' Paradigm," *History Compass* 1 (2003): 1-4.

Week 2

M 9/8 Europe and the Atlantic, Part I

W 9/10 Europe and the Atlantic, Part II

Th 9/11 The Atlantic in Economic History

- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson, "The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth," *American Economic Review* 95, no. 3 (2005): 546-79. Available here: <http://economics.mit.edu/files/4466>

Week 3

M 9/15 The Americas and the Atlantic

W 9/17 Africa and the Atlantic

Quantitative Analysis 1 due at beginning of class

Th 9/18 Economic Theories of Imperialism

- Hugo Grotius, *The Freedom of the Seas, or the Right Which Belongs to the Dutch to take part in the East Indian Trade*, translated by Ralph Van Deman Magoffin, Introduction by James Brown Scott, Director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (New York: Oxford University Press, 1916). Available here: <http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/552>

Week 4

M 9/22 Understanding Oceanic Circulation

- Eltis, *Rise of African Slavery*, chapters 1-2.

W 9/24 Money and Credit

Th 9/25 States, Corporations, and Other Organizing Schemes

Historiography Report 1 due at beginning of class

- Philip J. Stern, "'Bundles of Hyphens': Corporations as Legal Communities in the Early Modern British Empire," in *Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850*, edited by Lauren Benton and Richard J. Ross (New York: New York University Press, 2013), 21–48.
- Regina Grafe and Alejandra Irigoin, "A Stakeholder Empire: The Political Economy of Spanish Imperial Rule in America," *Economic History Review* 65, no. 2 (May 2012): 609–51.

Unit II: Case Studies

Week 5

M 9/29 Staples Theory

W 10/1 The Demography of Atlantic Trade

Th 10/2 Merchants and Traders

Historiography Report Option 1

- Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, "La Nación among the Nations: Portuguese and Other Maritime Trading Diasporas in the Atlantic, Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries," in *Atlantic Diasporas: Jews, Conversos, and Crypto-Jews in the Age of Mercantilism, 1500-1800*, edited by Richard L. Kagan and Philip D. Morgan (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), 75–98.
- David Hancock, "Self-Organized Complexity and the Emergence of an Atlantic Market Economy, 1651-1815: The Case of Madeira," in *The Atlantic Economy during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: Organization, Operation, Practice, and Personnel*, edited by Peter A. Coclanis (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 2005), 30–71.
- Pierre Gervais, "A Merchant or a French Atlantic? Eighteenth-Century Account Books as Narratives of a Transnational Merchant Political Economy," *French History* 25, no. 1 (2011): 28–47.

Week 6

M 10/6 Silver

W 10/8 Sugar

Th 10/9 The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Part I

- Eltis, *Rise of African Slavery*, chapters 3–6.

Week 7

M 10/13 Columbus Day - no class meeting

W 10/15 Tobacco and Other Crops

Th 10/16 The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Part II

- Eltis, *Rise of African Slavery*, chapters 7–10.

Week 8

M 10/20 The Household Economy

W 10/22 The Impoverished Atlantic

Th 10/23 Labor and Industry

- de Vries, *Industrious Revolution*, chapters 1-2.

Week 9

M 10/27 Continental Interiors: North America

Paper due at beginning of class

W 10/29 Continental Interiors: South America

Th 10/30 Native American trade

Historiography Report Option 2

- Brett Rushforth, *Bonds of Alliance: Indigenous and Atlantic Slaveries in New France* (Chapel Hill: OIEAHC, University of North Carolina Press, 2012), chapter 3.
- Molly Warsh, "Political Ecology in the Spanish Caribbean," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser., 71, no. 4 (Oct. 2014), 517-50.
- Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), chapter 3.

Week 10

M 11/3 Centers and Peripheries

W 11/5 Pirates and Other Illicit Trade

Th 11/6 Women at Work

Historiography Report Option 3

- de Vries, *Industrious Revolution*, chapter 3.
- Jane Mangan, *Trading Roles: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Urban Economy in Colonial Potosí* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), chapter 5.
- Gordon DesBrisay, "Aberdeen and the Dutch Atlantic: Women and Woolens in the Seventeenth Century," in *Women in Port: Gendering Communities, Economies, and Social Networks in Atlantic Port Cities, 1500-1800*, ed. Douglas Catterall and Jodi Campbell (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 69-102.

Week 11

M 11/10 Eighteenth-Century Expansion

W 11/12 Changing Tastes

Quantitative Analysis 2 due at beginning of class

Th 11/13 Consumers and Industry

Historiography Report Option 3

- de Vries, *Industrious Revolution*, chapter 4.
- T.H. Breen, *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), chapter 3.

Unit III: ImpactsWeek 12

M 11/17 Wars for Empire

W 11/19 Bubbles

Th 11/20 Corruption and Scandal

- John Trenchard, *Cato's Letters, or Essays on Liberty, Civil and Religious, and Other Important Subjects*, four volumes in two, edited and annotated by Ronald Hamowy (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1995), Letters 2-11. Available here: <http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/trenchard-catos-letters-vol-1-november-5-1720-to-june-17-1721-lf-ed>

Week 13

M 11/24 Smith and Mercantilism

- Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith, edited with an Introduction, Notes, Marginal Summary and an Enlarged Index by Edwin Cannan (London: Methuen, 1904), Book IV, introduction, chapters 1-2. Available here: http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/237#lf0206-01_label_892

W 11/26 No class meeting

Th 11/27 Thanksgiving – no class meeting

Week 14

M 12/1 Imperial Reforms, Part I

Paper Re-write due at beginning of class

W 12/3 Imperial Reforms, Part II

Th 12/4 Economic Revolutions?

- Selection of declarations of independence from Americas

Week 15

M 12/8 Postcolonial Settlements

W 12/10 Early Industrialization

Th 12/11 Alternative Frameworks

Historiography Report Option 5

- Joyce E. Chaplin, "The Atlantic Ocean and Its Contemporary Meanings, 1492-1808," in *Atlantic History: A Critical Appraisal*, ed. Jack P. Greene and Philip D. Morgan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 35–51.
- Peter A. Coclanis, "Beyond Atlantic History," in *Atlantic History: A Critical Appraisal*, ed. Jack P. Greene and Philip D. Morgan (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 337–56.
- Alison Games, *Web of Empire: English Cosmopolitans in an Age of Expansion, 1560-1660* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), chapter 3.

Week 16

M 12/15 The End of the Atlantic World?

REQUIRED TEXTS

Jan de Vries, *The Industrious Revolution: Consumer Behavior and the Household Economy, 1650 to the Present* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008). ISBN: 978-0521719254

David Eltis, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999). ISBN: 978-052165484

The above texts are all available through the Framingham State bookstore. Additional readings will be found on the course Blackboard site and library e-reserves.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation (20%)

Participation is vital to your success in this course. You are expected to attend all course meetings and to come to class prepared. That is, you should have completed the assigned reading, have a hard copy with you in class, and be prepared to participate actively in class discussion through comments and questions. You will lose credit for participation after three absences, except in documented cases for extended family or medical emergencies.

2. Quantitative Analysis Assignments (10%)

These two short assignments will ask students to take quantitative data in readings we have done and reinterpret and/or explain it through a brief essay (250-300 words) and a visual representation. The first will be due on Wednesday, September 17, and the second on Wednesday, November 12. Further details will be distributed the week before each assignment is due.

3. Historiography Reports (15%)

Students will write three brief (250-300 words) reports on articles assigned during the semester. For the first, all students will complete a report based on a reading for Thursday, September 25. Students will write the remaining two reports on a reading of their choice for two of the following dates: October 2, October 30, November 6, November 13, and/or December 11. Reports are due at the beginning of class on that date, and must cover a reading assigned for that day. Details on how to complete the reports will be distributed one week in advance of the first due date.

4. Paper (25%)

Students will write a paper of 2,000 to 2,500 words (including notes) on a topic related to the economic history of slavery using the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. The paper will be due on October 27. Students will be required to submit a revised version of the paper on Monday, December 1. Full details will be circulated approximately three weeks in advance of the initial due date.

5. Final Examination (30%)

The final for the course will be a take-home essay requiring students to use a wide range of readings and content from the semester to address key questions about the economic history of the Atlantic world. It will be due on the date assigned by the Registrar, Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30 am. Further information will be distributed approximately three weeks in advance.

COURSE POLICIES

Accommodations

Any student with a disability or other extenuating circumstances should see the instructor as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any accommodations provided through CASA, including written documentation.

Course Websites

Please be sure to check the course website (available here: <http://josephadelman.com/teaching/fsu/hstw345/>) for updates to the syllabus, assignment details, and other information about the course. In addition, be sure that you are properly enrolled for the course Blackboard site. The site will be updated regularly with copyrighted readings, PowerPoint slide shows, and supplementary materials.

Communication

All students are required to maintain a Framingham State e-mail account, and course announcements will be sent to that address and posted to the course Blackboard site. Please check your FSU account and Blackboard regularly for updates.

Electronic Devices

In order to promote active engagement with the materials, no electronic devices are permitted in class except with the prior permission of the instructor. Students should come to class with a hard copy of the readings for that day prepared to discuss them.

All lectures and course materials are copyright to the instructor and may not be reproduced or distributed without written permission. You may not record lectures without prior approval in writing.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

The academic community is built upon the free, open, and honest exchange of ideas and opinions. In order to achieve such an environment, students need to be confident that their peers are holding themselves to the same high standards. Cheating undermines the reputation of a university's degrees and violates the trust of all members of our intellectual community. Accordingly, no form of cheating will be tolerated in this course. All students are expected to conform to the university's code of conduct at all times. Any student found cheating will be referred to the Dean of Students according to university policy. Cheating on any assignment will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and other possible repercussions.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own without giving proper credit to the source. You must acknowledge the original author or source of all quotations and ideas through quotation marks, footnotes, etc. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following:

- the submission of a work, either in part or in whole completed by another;
- failure to give credit for ideas, statements, facts or conclusions which rightfully belong to another;
- failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or even a part thereof;
- close and lengthy paraphrasing of another's writing, without credit or originality;
- use of another's project or programs or part thereof without giving credit.

Submission of a work completed for another class either in a previous or concurrent term is academic dishonesty. In short, plagiarism is not allowed under any circumstances. If you have any questions about whether something might be considered plagiarism, *please ask*.

For more information on Framingham State's policies on academic honesty and plagiarism, please see the CASA Writing Guide at: http://www.fscmedia.com/web-external/writing-guide/plagiarism_fsc.html.

Workload

Federal regulations require that students engage in two hours of work outside of the classroom for each credit hour. For courses at Framingham State, which are four credits, that means that students are expected to work for approximately eight hours per week outside of class.