

# THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

SPRING SEMESTER 2010  
COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course:** ECON 120 Section 01 European Economic History

**Professor:** Thomas P. Breslin, PhD, Professor Economics

**Office:** School of Business Building, 131  
Office Hours: 12Noon - 2PM T/F and by appointment  
Office Telephone: 609-771-2891

### Required

**Textbooks:** DiVittorio, Antonio, ed. *An Economic History of Europe*.  
Routledge Publishing, 2006  
Clark, Gregory, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*,  
Princeton University Press, 2008  
Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs and Steel New York*,  
Horton, 1997  
Fogel, Robert W., *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2010*,  
Cambridge University Press, 2004

### Class Meeting

**Times:** Tuesday and Friday – 2pm to 3:50pm

**Classroom:** School of Business Building 122

**Course Description:** The economic development of Europe is traced from the medieval period to modern times. Particular emphasis is given to the growth of economic institutions that preceded those of modern Europe. The growth of these institutions is further developed to demonstrate their influence on the United States.

### Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

- A. Explain the major economic and social forces in the development of modern Europe.
- B. Apply economic analysis to historical events.
- C. Describe the nature and causes of economic growth.
- D. Explain the historical context of the economic development of Europe.
- E. Analyze the interaction between economic forces, historical events, and social and institutional change.
- F. Understand the influence of European economic development on the economic development of the United States.
- G. Write clearly and persuasively on issues related to the economic development of Europe.

**Assessment:** Methods include: A mid-term and a final examination, and a paper. The paper will require each student to analyze economic forces and their impact on a specific historical event (or set of historical events). It is strongly recommended that students seek help with the first draft of the paper (either from the school's designated writing assistance program or from the instructor). Students with writing deficiencies are expected to take corrective steps.

Prior to each examination you will be given a list of questions from which five will be selected by the instructor. The examinations will be returned to the students in a timely fashion and each of the answers to the questions asked on the examinations will be explained in detail by means of a discussion between students and the instructor. The discussions of each of the answers will not only help you understand problems that they may have encountered in answering the examination questions but it will also provide the instructor with valuable feedback. Each of the examinations account for thirty-three percent of the final grade.

You will also be required to write a research paper that will account for thirty-four percent of your final grade in the course. Each student will have an opportunity to select a topic for the research paper. Each topic must first be approved by the instructor. Prior to the selection of a research topic, the instructor will provide the necessary guidelines for the content and structure of the research paper. The instructor will also show the kinds of research a student may engage in such as a) explaining an anomaly, b) extending an existing study backwards or forward in time, c) repeating a study done for one particular market or industry with data from another market or industry, d) examining older studies using new statistical or theoretical models, e) following up a published suggestion for future research, and f) surveying the literature on a particular issue or question.

#### **Schedule:**

Mid-Term Examination	March 2, 2010
Final Examination	To be announced
Final Draft of Papers Due	April 16, 2010

#### **Grading Scale:**

#### **Minimum Points Necessary for Each Grade**

94 - 100 = A	282
90 - 93 = A-	270
86 - 89 = B+	258
82 - 83 = B	246
78 - 81 = B-	234
74 - 77 = C+	222
70 - 73 = C	210
66 - 69 = C-	198
62 - 65 = D+	186
58 - 61 = D	174
Below 58 = F	

**Attendance Policy:** All students are expected to attend every class. **Leaving before the scheduled ending of class and being tardy will not be tolerated.**

## **Schedule of Topics**

DiVittorio Text

### Introduction

1. The economy in the fifteenth century: preconditions for European expansion
2. European expansion in the sixteenth century
3. European expansion in the seventeenth century
4. The European economics in the eighteenth century
5. The economic development of Europe in the nineteenth century (I): growth and transformation of the economy
6. The economic development of Europe in the nineteenth century (II): demographic dynamics and social change: the role of agriculture
7. The economic development of Europe in the nineteenth century (III): the process of industrialization
8. The economic development of Europe in the nineteenth century (IV): the revolution in transport and communications
9. The economic development of Europe in the nineteenth century (V): international exchanges and monetary systems
10. The twentieth century – from break with the past to prosperity (I): growth and transformation of the economy
11. The twentieth century – from break with the past to prosperity (II): the great stages
12. The twentieth century – from break with the past to prosperity (III): economic and social policies