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

http://josephadelman.com/teaching/fsu/hstw345/

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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?

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

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

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_


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_


Week 6
M 10/6 Silver
W 10/8 Sugar
Th 10/9 The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Part I


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

Week 8
M 10/20 The Household Economy
W 10/22 The Impoverished Atlantic
Th 10/23 Labor and Industry

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*

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*

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*
Unit III: Impacts

Week 12
M 11/17 Wars for Empire
W 11/19 Bubbles
Th 11/20 Corruption and Scandal


Week 13
M 11/24 Smith and Mercantilism


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*


Week 16  
M 12/15 The End of the Atlantic World?

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


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.