

HIST 3226 E01

The Entrepreneur and Canadian Business History

Fall 2008
Monday 18:00 to 21:00
Room C-207

Dr. Andrew Smith
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the business history of Canada from the first exchange of goods between Natives and Europeans to the late twentieth century. The course will introduce students to the extensive historiography on Canadian business. Students will become familiar with the major themes in Canadian business history: the rise of the modern corporation; the changing role of the state; labour relations; technology and innovation; economic nationalism, continentalism, and globalization; and business in a multicultural society. A core goal of the course is to get students to think about the role of business in the creation of a separate nation on the northern half of the North American continent.

TEXTBOOK

Graham D. Taylor and Peter A. Baskerville, *A Concise History of Business in Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1994). ISBN-10: 0-19-540978-7
ISBN-13: 978-0-19-540978-9

BOOK TO REVIEW

Book to Review: Matthew J. Bellamy, *Profiting the Crown: Canada's Polymer Corporation, 1942-1990* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005).

HOW TO CONTACT ME

My office is A-258. My office hours are: Monday; 13:00-14:00; Tuesday 14:30-15:30. Meetings outside office hours can be arranged by email. Email is the best way of reaching me for urgent matters. Please note that my email address is adsmith@laurentian.ca not asmith@laurentian.ca.

HOW I WILL CONTACT YOU

My primary means of communicating with students are email and WebCT. Messages directed towards the class as a whole will be posted on WebCT. If I need to contact an individual student, I will send an email to his or her Laurentian email account. It is your responsibility to activate this account and to check it regularly. Your Laurentian account can be set to forward emails to another address (e.g., hotmail) but I will send emails only to the Laurentian system.

MARKING SCHEME

Book Review (6 October)	20%
Mid-Term Exam (27 October)	15%
Research Paper	25%
Research Presentation (24 November)	10%
Final Exam (December exam period)	30%

ASSIGNMENTS**BOOK REVIEW**

Matthew J. Bellamy, *Profiting the Crown: Canada's Polymer Corporation, 1942-1990* (Montreal : McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005).

The book review is due 6 October. You are asked to write a book review five pages in length. A *précis* of a book merely provides a descriptive summary of the book's contents. In contrast, a proper book review involves going beyond mere description. A review requires the input of one's own reasoned opinions. Published reviews of the book can be consulted, but mainly as a way of stimulating your own thinking on this topic. Reviews consulted should be fully documented with footnotes and a bibliography.

RESEARCH ESSAY

The essay will be due 17 November. Each student will write a research essay that is twelve pages in length. A list of topics will be provided. It is possible to write an essay on a topic not on the list, provided one obtains the permission of the instructor in advance. This will require a visit during office hours.

Format: The page limit will be strictly enforced. Any assignment over the limit will be returned to the student without being marked. The students will be asked to revise the assignment to bring within the limit. Normal late penalties will accrue during the period in which the assignment is being revised. Students should not try to evade the page limit by varying font size, page margins, etc. The font should be Times New Roman Size 12. Margins should be 1.5 inches on all sides. All assignments in this course should be on white, letter sized paper, and double-spaced.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Research Presentations will take place on 24 November, one week after the essays are due. The oral presentations will be based on your essays but will require you to exploit a different set of skills than those used in writing a paper. Presentation should take about eight minutes. Students who speak for longer than ten minutes will be cut off. You may or may not wish to include a PowerPoint component in your presentation. Your oral presentation will be worth 10% of your final mark in this course. In marking your presentations, I will use the following criteria: organization; coherence; audibility; ability to keep classmates interested. In other words, your presentation mark will reflect the quality of your presentation about your research project rather than the quality of your research project per se.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR WRITTEN WORK

Your grade will depend on both style and content. You will lose marks for stylistic defects such as spelling and other typographical errors, grammatical mistakes, and sentences of excessive length. You are also expected to have a clear thesis, or a strong central argument that your assignment seeks to prove using evidence.

ESSAY ASSISTANCE

If you need help with your assignments, the Writing Assistance Program in Desmarais Library can help. You may bring assignments in progress to the trained writing assistants, who will help them understand and solve their writing difficulties.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

There are severe penalties for academic dishonesty. The instructor will punish cases of plagiarism seriously. Plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of zero. In addition to loss of course credit, plagiarism can result in expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me.

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

The rule regarding deferred examinations, doctor's notes, and attendance are set by the university, not by the instructor. Please look at the university regulations.

LECTURE OUTLINE

8 September	Introduction
15 September	Maritime Capital: Westward Ventures
22 September	Doing Business in New France
29 September	An Empire of Fur
6 October	The Commercial Empire of the St Lawrence <i>Book Review Due</i>
13 October	Thanksgiving
20 October	Reading Week
27 October	The Canadian Pacific Railway and the Asian Dream <i>Mid-Term Exam</i>
3 November	Building a National Economy?
10 November	The Canadian State and Enterprise in the 20 th Century
17 November	Business History of Northern Ontario <i>Essay Due</i>
24 November	Industrial Canada Confront Globalization <i>Research Presentations</i>
1 December	Conclusion

ESSAY TOPICS

- 1) Who was Harold Adams Innis? What were his major contributions to Canadian economic and business history?
- 2) What do we know about the French merchants who traded with New France?
- 3) How has politics influenced the development of Canada's airline industry?
- 4) What was the impact of the Cold War on Canada's natural resources sector?
- 5) How did employers utilize women's labour in nineteenth-century Ontario? Were female employees exploited? If so, were they exploited more than the men of that era?
- 6) Write an essay on the history of the feature film industry in Canada. What role has the state played in trying to develop a Hollywood-style industry in this country?
- 7) How did the role of the state in industrial relations change in the fifteen years before the First World War?
- 8) What rights did Canadian workers gain between 1939 and 1945?
- 9) The Canadian Pacific Railway is often thought of as a nationalist project. What role did Americans play in its construction?
- 10) What do we know about the European merchants who traded with New France?
- 11) What is the broader significance of Massey-Ferguson to Canadian business history?
- 12) Was Sir Joseph Flavelle unjustly condemned by his contemporaries?
- 13) Why was the Bank of Canada created?
- 14) Did the National Policy slow or accelerate the industrialization of the Maritimes?
- 15) Why did the Canadian banking system evolve in a very different way than the banking system of the United States?

- 16) What role did businessmen play in the creation of the National Policy?
- 17) How did the local business community respond to the Winnipeg General Strike?
- 18) How did industrial relations change during the Second World War?
- 19) Why was the Bank of Canada established?
- 20) Which merchants in France were connected to New France?
- 21) What was the impact of the Conquest of New France on the French Canadian bourgeoisie?