



ECON 327 A01

Economic History of North America

Fall Session: September -December 2026

CRN: 11127

Instructor Name: Dr. Maliha Nazir

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Zoom Office Hours: Wednesday (11:00 A.M – 12 noon) or by appointment. Zoom link is shared on Brightspace.

Class Location: Cornett Building-A120

Class time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays (1:30 P.M. – 2:20 P.M.)

TA Name: TBA

Email:

Prerequisites:

- One of ECON 103, ECON 103C, ECON 180; and ECON 104; and
- One of ECON 225, ENGR 240, ENGR 120.

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Teaching and assessment modality statement

This course is face-to-face, and all exams are held in person. The student must bring a tablet or laptop to submit the class participation activities during the class session. If the instructor is not well and the class is cancelled, then the content for that missed lecture will be uploaded on Brightspace. The students should enable their notifications settings on Brightspace for all announcements.

Course Content

North American economic history from the time before Europeans arrived to the recent past, with most attention paid to the mid 18th to mid-20th centuries. Topics include Indigenous economies pre and post-European contact, land expansion, mass migrations, slavery and the civil war, railroads and industrialization, Great Depression and Recovery, WWII and the increased role of governments, labour markets and human capital, natural resources and the environment, civil rights, race and gender, cities and (sub)urbanization, health and demographics. The course is designed to focus on the economic perspective involved in the history, and not the political history.

Textbook

The **(optional)** textbooks for this course are as follows:

Norrie, K., Owram, D., & Emery, J. (2007) *A history of the Canadian economy* (Fourth Edition). Toronto: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Atack, J., & Passell, P. (1994). *A new economic view of American history from Colonial Times to 1940* (Second Edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Brightspace

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture slides will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the lecture slides online are only outlines of the actual lectures. I will upload the relevant readings and videos on Brightspace. It is the student's responsibility to read the articles and prepare them for the discussion in class. I will use short videos or podcasts in class related to the course content.

All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the basic political, economic and social narrative of Canadian history.
- Identify and analyse historical developments which enhance our understanding of contemporary economic conditions.
- Develop an understanding of the causes and effects of inequalities rooted in social, economic, legal, and political structures.

Course Structure, Assessments, and Grading

Use of AI

The use of AI is prohibited for assignments, presentations, class participations and exams. Unless there is an instruction that states the use of AI is allowed for a specific assessment, do not use it for any assessments or there will be a zero awarded for that assessment.

Grading Scheme

The course grade is determined as follows:

Assignments	15 %
Midterm Exams	40 %
Presentation	20 %
Class Participation	25%

Assignments:

There will be four assignments. The assignment with the lowest score will be dropped. Three assignments, each carrying a weight of 5% will be counted towards the grade. The assignments must be submitted on Brightspace by the due date and no extension will be given. I will not accept any assignments via email.

Midterm Exams:

There will be two in-person midterm exams, each carrying a weight of 20%. The midterm exams are NOT cumulative. The midterm exams will be held in-person during the class session. If you miss one midterm exam, the weight will NOT be shifted to the other exam.

Class Participation:

There will be multiple graded and non-graded class participation activities to be submitted as a group. The class participation activities will be timed and require you to read article(s) a week before the class session and answer the questions as a group. Make sure to add the names of the group members when you submit it on Brightspace to earn credit. All group members must submit the answers. I will not accept any class participation activity sent via email. I will drop the lowest two class participation scores.

Presentation:

Each student is expected to submit MS Power Point Presentation slides and present it. The time for presentation is 5 minutes to discuss the scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. You will be asked questions after the presentation. If you are sick or have accommodation and you are not able to come to the class for the presentation, please discuss it with me for alternative ways of presenting. The topics and schedule of presentations will be posted on Brightspace by October 6th. You must choose the topic and upload the journal articles on Brightspace after discussing it with the instructor in the class by October 16th. The rubric will be uploaded on Brightspace.

Mandatory/Essential Course Components

The following are the mandatory course components:

The midterm exams, at least eight class participations and presentation are an essential course requirements, meaning they must be attempted in order to pass the course. Note that essential course requirements are deferrable.”, “Students who have completed the presentation and both midterm exams **will be considered to have completed the course.** Failure to complete will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.”

***Attendance:** Attendance is optional during the lectures. If you are not able to come to the class session please make sure to download the content from Brightspace. Please do not send me emails asking what was covered in the class. You must be present on at least 6 presentations days and there will be attendance counted towards the grade of your presentation. There will be 1% per day penalty for each missed presentation day.*

Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

Assignments:

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the date.

Assignment 1 due on September 18th

Assignment 2 due on October 2nd

Assignment 3 due on November 6th

Assignment 4 due on November 27th

Class Participations:

The class participation activities are based on readings, videos and articles uploaded on Brightspace. It is the students’ responsibility to read the weekly readings and prepare for the class participation discussion and submit it timely on Brightspace. It is advised to read the articles before the class so that you can productively use the time towards a discussion.

Midterms:

Midterm 1: October 6th (1:30-2:20 pm in the class/UVic lab)

Midterm 2: November 17th (1:30-2:20 pm in the class/UVic lab)

I will announce the lab location for the exam one week prior to the exams. You will need Respondus lockdown browser to submit the exam. Make sure to familiarize yourself. The exams cannot be taken on personal laptops.

I will post an announcement on Brightspace about the topics and readings included in the midterm exams. If you miss both the exams, you can submit a RAC form and take the cumulative deferred exam offered by the department. Make sure to send the email and the form to the instructor prior to the exams.

MS PowerPoint Presentation: November 13th, 2026

Final exam: There is no final exam for this course.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Grading Scale

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%
F or N	0-49%

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

Missing Assessments

Automatic academic concessions:

If you have missed one assignment or two class participation activities due to any reason, then you do not need to inform me as the score will be dropped and will not affect your grade.

If you miss the deadline for the presentation in addition to the automatic academic concessions, then email me and the TAs and follow the instructions below:

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit the presentation at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#)". I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions."

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to all scholarly work. At the University of Victoria (UVic), students are expected to comply with the university's academic regulations and must not engage in acts of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in any academic work. Violations of [the University's academic integrity policy](#) may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

Appeals

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is:

1. Me, the course instructor
2. the Associate Chair: econassoc@uvic.ca
3. the Associate Dean of Academic Advising
4. the Senate.

If you're seeking a formal review of an assigned grade, you should also consult the regulations in the academic calendar regarding [review of an assigned grade](#)."

I only respond to grading inquiries in writing. You must file your question within ONE week of issuance of your grade. Do not approach me after class to discuss grading concerns."

- a. University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- b. [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- c. [Academic Integrity](#)
- d. [Academic Concession Regulations](#), [Academic Concession and Accommodation](#), Academic Accommodation – [Policy AC1205](#)
- e. [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- f. [Student Conduct](#)
- g. [Accessibility](#)
- h. [Diversity / EDI](#)
- i. [Equity statement](#)
- j. [Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- k. [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#)

Resources for students

- a. [Student wellness](#)
- b. [Centre for Accessible Learning](#)
- c. [UVic Learn](#). UVic Learn is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
- d. [Library](#) resources
- e. Academic Skills Centre ([ASC](#))
- f. Learning Assistance Program ([LAP](#))
- g. [Academic Advising](#)
- h. Economics Undergraduate Advising: ecadvice@uvic.ca
- i. [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- j. [International Student Advising](#)
- k. Indigenous student services ([ISS](#))
- l. [Student groups and resources](#) including UVic [Ombudsperson](#)

Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential SEL survey regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

Course Structure

The tentative topics covered in the course are below. The sequence of lectures can differ.

- *Staple Theory of Economic Growth*
- *Economic Factors in Canadian History*
- *Wheat Boom*
- *Indentured Servitude*
- *Fur Trade*
- *Early Chinese immigration*
- *Canadian Pacific Railway*
- *American Railroads and Economic Growth*
- *Slave Trade*
- *The Great Depression*
- *The Industrial Revolution*
- *Financial Markets of the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries*
- *Role of Women and Paid Work*
- *Banking, Panics, and Business Cycles*

Week	Due Dates and Exam Information
Week 1 SEP 9-11	First class session on September 9 th Introduction Course outline Demo class participation (not graded)
Week 2 SEP 14-18	Assignment 1 due on Sep. 18 th Class participation
Week 3 SEP 21-25	Class participation
Week 4 SEP 28-OCT 2	Class participation
Week 5 SEP 29-OCT 3	Assignment 2 due on Oct. 2 nd Class participation
Week 6 OCT 5-9	Midterm 1 exam (in- class/ lab)- Oct. 6 th Presentation topics, instructions and rubric posted on Brightspace Class participation
Week 7 OCT 12-16	Journal Articles with PDF for presentation (Oct. 16) Class participation
Week 8 OCT 19-23	Class participation
Week 9 OCT 26-30	Class participation
Week 10 NOV 2-6	Assignment 3 due on Nov. 6 th Class participation
Week 11 NOV 9-13	Reading Break (Nov. 9-11) PowerPoint presentations due on Nov. 13 th Lecture content posted on Brightspace for Nov. 13 th

Week 12 NOV 16-20	Midterm 2 exam (in-class/lab)- Nov. 17 th Presentations
Week 13 NOV. 23-27	Assignment 4 due on Nov. 27 th Presentations
Week 14 NOV 30-DEC 7	Presentations Last class on Dec. 7 th

E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

I usually respond to the emails within **2 business days** but if you need an appointment, please send me an email at least two days before and include the topic or specific question so that I can respond to your question. To maintain work/life balance, I will not usually respond to emails or other inquiries after 4 pm on weekdays and I might be unavailable on weekends and statutory holidays.

Electronic Devices

You must bring your laptops or tablets to submit the in-class participation. *No personal electronic devices, chatting, or web searching are allowed during the exams.*

Educational Technology involving storage outside Canada

I will be using Zoom for my online office hours. While Zoom is currently updating their service so that a user can select the data centre region (*i.e.*, Canada in our case) that their account can use for real-time meeting data in-transit, the data is currently stored on US servers. To set-up a Zoom account, personal information is required. Information on Zoom's privacy policy and the terms of use can be found at <https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/privacy-and-security.html>

Personal information is required by the service.

If you are not comfortable with your personal information being stored outside of Canada, please speak to me within the first week of class about using an alternative (such as using an alias or nickname). Otherwise, by continuing in this course, you agree to the use of the educational technology in the course and the storage of personal information outside of Canada.