Course Description:

This course is intended to serve as an introduction to the core ideas and concepts of political economy. It does this through an examination of three phases of Canadian political-economic development. The goal of the course is to provide students with a new perspective for understanding Canada and Canadian politics. The overall theme of the course is range of interactions and relationships between what are commonly understood as separate institutions.

The course is based on a series of seminars and readings. Seminars will take place with the expectation that you are prepared to discuss the readings for the week in question. Grading in the course will be based on seminar participation, and a 10 – 15 page term paper. If you have any questions about these assignments, or other course issues, you may contact me in office hours, or via the email address above.

Politics and economics, and their associated institutions, have become separate realms of study. Politics is ultimately about the expression of values, and the use of power. Economics is about the production and distribution of resources. Both of these subjects, however, have a common root in the discipline of political economy. Values, power, and resources are inextricably linked by our individual actions, by the social institutions we develop to govern them, and by the underlying structural dynamics of society.

Required Readings: On Reserve

Course Requirements:

Seminar Participation 50%
Final Paper: 50%

Course Schedule:
Week 1: Mon. May. 9, Wed. May. 11, Fri. May. 13:
Course Introduction

Section 1: Structural Approaches to Early Canada

Reading: Watkins, M. The Staples Approach, in

Week 3: Mon. May 23 – Wed. May 25
Reading: Innis, H. The Fur trade”, in
MacIntosh, W. A. “A Staples Theory of Growth”, in

Week 4: Mon. May 30 – Wed. June 1
Reading: Dwyer, J. “Scottish Merchants”, in North Atlantic Trade

Section 2: Individual Approaches to mid-Century Development

Week 5: Mon. June 6 – Wed. June 8

Week 6: Mon. June 13 to Wed. June 15

Week 7: Mon. June 20 to Wed. June 22
Semester Break Mon. June 20 to Thursday June 23.

Week 8: Mon. June 27 to Wed. June 29.

**NB: Monday June 27 is the last day to drop 14 week courses without academic penalty.**


**Section 3: Institutional Approaches to Modern Canadian Development**


Week 11: Mon. July 18 to Wed. July 20


The exam period begins Monday August 8.
General Course Guidelines:

Formatting: As a matter of consistency, all course materials should be submitted in the following format:

1. Double spaced, one inch margins

2. 12 point, in a standard font style such as Times New Roman or Helvetica.

3. All citations and source references should be made in APA style. If you are unsure as to the appropriate format for citations, etc., please refer to: http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/apa.php

4. Include a title page with such relevant information as your name, the course title and number, your student number, the date you submitted the assignment, and of course, the title of the assignment itself.

Late policy: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day noted in the course outline. If assignments are submitted late for medical or other legitimate reasons, suitable accommodations will be made. Notify me by email that the assignment will be late, and when you hand it in, include a copy of the appropriate documentation from your doctor.

Late assignments unaccompanied by such documentation will be assessed at a penalty of 5% per day (including weekends and other holidays). Note that it is almost always better to hand in an assignment late than not at all, and I will accept any late work up until the last day of class.

Special needs: If you require special consideration (for example due to a learning or other disability), please notify me as soon as possible via email, and then arrange a meeting with me in the first two weeks of classes. Please bring any relevant documentation, and we will set up suitable accommodations.
Contact: The best way to reach me is via email at: markus@mun.ca. I check email regularly, and should get back to you quickly. If you do not hear from me, please do not panic and send a barrage of follow-up messages - it likely means I am out of town and have limited access. I will reply to you as soon as possible. You may also meet me during any of my office hours. I will give preference to students who arrange an appointment, so if you want to be sure of meeting me, especially during busy periods such as before exams, be sure to contact me via email ahead of time.

Attendance: It is assumed that you will be attending lecture on a regular basis. As a consequence, no grades will be given on the basis of attendance alone. You are the best judge of the use of your time. If you are unable to attend lecture, it will be necessary to acquire any missed notes from a classmate.

Grading: Course grades will comply with the General Academic Regulation 8.1, on p. 63 of the 2004-05 MUN calendar.

Plagiarism: This will be discussed in the first week of class. It will not be tolerated in the course. In any case where it is determined to have occurred, full academic penalties will ensue.
Assignment Guidelines: Term Paper

As the core writing assignment for this course, you will be expected to write a 10-15 page essay, dealing with the issues of the course, and adhering to the formatting guidelines noted above. The essay should reflect an engagement with both the substantive and analytic issues addressed in the course material, but students are welcome to develop these themes further.

The essay should respond to one of the following questions:

1) The course addresses the issue of the state-economy relationship at three levels, that of the individual, the institution, and the social structure of society. Which of these three do you think best explains the developmental pattern of Canada, and why?

2) Do you think the relationship between the state and economic life in Canada is distinct? Why, or why not? Illustrate your response with specific examples and arguments.

3) A topic relevant to the issues of the course, chosen in consultation with the instructor. Nota Bene: if you choose this option, you must consult me and agree upon a topic by the end of semester break.