



UNSW Course Outline

ZHSS3238 Winners and Losers in World Economic History - 2024

Published on the 12 Feb 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ZHSS3238

Year : 2024

Term : Semester 1

Teaching Period : Z1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Canberra

Academic Unit : UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Campus : UNSW Canberra

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The course presents a survey of major developments in world economic history and economic thought from about 1500 to today and arranged around the theme of 'winners' and 'losers'. It examines why the West triumphed in the early modern period and why at the same time great

eastern civilisations such as India and China declined. It covers the West's adoption of the system of slavery, the industrial revolution that began in Britain and extended to other European countries and the United States, and the development of capitalism. It looks into differences within capitalist countries and between rich capitalist countries and underdeveloped countries in the periphery. The course examines the contest between major economic ideas such as liberalism, comparative advantage and socialist ideas; the causes and consequences of the Great Depression of the 1930s; and the effort led by the United States to reconstruct the non-communist world after World War II. We discuss winners and losers in the Golden Age of capitalism and a world divided between rich western economies, a less prosperous and centrally directed communist bloc and the 'third world' of under-developed countries. The course then discusses major developments in the late 20th and 21st centuries including the Global Financial Crisis, the rise of China, and the dominance of high technology companies. Finally, the course also pays attention to the question why Australia emerged in the two centuries after 1788 as a prosperous country.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course can be taken as part of a major in Business, History, and International and Political Studies.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand the main themes in world economic history from the late Middle Ages to the Present;
CLO2 : Understand how economic power interacts with other forms of power;
CLO3 : Become familiar with major debates and controversies in world economic history;
CLO4 : Clearly express ideas and arguments about world economic history in written form.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand the main themes in world economic history from the late Middle Ages to the Present;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Class test 1• Essay• In Class test 2• Examination
CLO2 : Understand how economic power interacts with other forms of power;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Class test 1• Essay• In Class test 2• Examination
CLO3 : Become familiar with major debates and controversies in world economic history;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Class test 1• Essay• In Class test 2• Examination
CLO4 : Clearly express ideas and arguments about world economic history in written form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay• Examination

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the [Moodle Support](#) page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+

- Internet Explorer is not recommended
- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

Operating systems recommended are:

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click [here](#).

Log in to Moodle [here](#).

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
In Class test 1 Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: 20/03/2024 03:10 PM Due Date: 20/03/2024 04:00 PM Post Date: 03/04/2024 04:00 PM
Essay Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 26/04/2024 10:00 AM Post Date: 10/05/2024 10:00 AM
In Class test 2 Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: 13/05/2024 05:10 PM Due Date: 13/05/2024 06:00 PM Post Date: 27/05/2024 06:00 PM
Examination Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable

Assessment Details

In Class test 1

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand the main themes in world economic history from the late Middle Ages to the Present;
- CL02 : Understand how economic power interacts with other forms of power;
- CL03 : Become familiar with major debates and controversies in world economic history;

Detailed Assessment Description

The in-class test will be held during the normal lecture time on 20 March, venue TBC. Please be seated on time with your laptops charged and internet connected. We will advise you of the venue closer to the day; the Central Timetabling Unit will allocate us to a large lecture theatre where you can spread out and maintain some distance from each other.

2. The test question will be made visible on Moodle at the start of the session. You are required to write your answer to this question on a Word document within 40 minutes, then upload your answer to the submission box on Moodle (which will also be visible then). The submission box will shut at exactly the closing time.

3. You will have only one question, based on anything covered in the lectures, readings and tutorials so far. You are to answer it in essay form. No requirement for footnotes, citations, references. Read the question carefully before you answer it.

4. Open book: bring anything you like into the lecture theatre.

Assessment Length

1000 words

Submission notes

Typewritten on lap-top computer.

Assessment information

You will have only one question, based on anything covered in the lectures, readings and tutorials so far. You are to answer it in essay form. No requirement for footnotes, citations, references. Read the question carefully before you answer it.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Essay

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand the main themes in world economic history from the late Middle Ages to the Present;
- CL02 : Understand how economic power interacts with other forms of power;
- CL03 : Become familiar with major debates and controversies in world economic history;
- CL04 : Clearly express ideas and arguments about world economic history in written form.

Detailed Assessment Description

Write an essay answering one of the following questions.

Is there a mutually constitutive relationship between winners and losers in world economic history?

Do you agree with Eric Williams and Robin Blackburn that slavery enabled European capitalism?

Does the period of economic history covered in this course validate Smith and Ricardo's positions on free trade and comparative advantage?

Assessment Length

2000 words (exclusive of notes and bibliography)

Submission notes

Essay to be typewritten in Word.

Assessment information

Recommended reading material for the essay is available on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

In Class test 2

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand the main themes in world economic history from the late Middle Ages to the Present;
- CL02 : Understand how economic power interacts with other forms of power;
- CL03 : Become familiar with major debates and controversies in world economic history;

Detailed Assessment Description

The in-class test will be held during the normal lecture time on 13 May, venue TBC. Please be seated on time with your laptops charged and internet connected. We will advise you of the venue closer to the day; the Central Timetabling Unit will allocate us to a large lecture theatre where you can spread out and maintain some distance from each other.

2. The test question will be made visible on Moodle at the start of the session. You are required to write your answer to this question on a Word document within 40 minutes, then upload your answer to the submission box on Moodle (which will also be visible then). The submission box will shut at exactly the closing time.

3. You will have only one question, based on anything covered in the lectures, readings and tutorials from Weeks 6, 8 or 9. You are to answer it in essay form. No requirement for footnotes, citations, references. Read the question carefully before you answer it.

4. Open book: bring anything you like into the lecture theatre.

Assessment Length

1000 words Maximum

Submission notes

Essay to be typewritten on lap-top computer.

Assessment information

You will have only one question, based on anything covered in the lectures, readings and tutorials from Weeks 6, 8 or 9. You are to answer it in essay form. No requirement for footnotes, citations, references. Read the question carefully before you answer it.

The question is open book: bring anything you like into the lecture theatre.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Examination

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand the main themes in world economic history from the late Middle Ages to the Present;
- CL02 : Understand how economic power interacts with other forms of power;
- CL03 : Become familiar with major debates and controversies in world economic history;
- CL04 : Clearly express ideas and arguments about world economic history in written form.

Detailed Assessment Description

The final examination will be held during examination week. You are to write two essays: one drawing from all the material in the course and the other from the tutorials from Week 9 onward.

Assessment Length

2000 words maximum

Submission notes

The two essays are to be submitted in Inspira.

Assessment information

Final examination in examination week. Write two essays in two hours (one essay drawing on all the course and the other drawing from material from Week onward.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Late Submission of Assessment

Unless prior arrangement is made with the lecturer or a formal application for special consideration is submitted, a penalty of 5% of the total available mark for the assessment will apply for each day that an assessment item is late up to a maximum of 5 days (120 hours) after which an assessment can no longer be submitted and a grade of 0 will be applied.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

Guidance on AI

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 26 February - 1 March	Lecture	1.1 Overview 1.2 What is Capitalism?
	Tutorial	No tutorial
Week 2 : 4 March - 8 March	Lecture	2.1 The Rise of the West 2.2 The Conquistadores
	Tutorial	What is Capitalism?
Week 3 : 11 March - 15 March	Lecture	3.1 No lecture Monday lost 3.2 Slavery
	Tutorial	The West and the Rest
Week 4 : 18 March - 22 March	Lecture	4.1 Developments Elsewhere: Asia, Africa and the Middle East 4.2 No lecture
	Tutorial	No tutorial.
	Assessment	In class test 20 March 2024
Week 5 : 25 March - 29 March	Lecture	5.1 Industrial Revolution. 5.2 India and China in the Industrial Age
	Tutorial	Slavery
Week 6 : 1 April - 5 April	Lecture	6.1 No lecture Monday lost 6.2 Film: History of Capitalism
	Tutorial	Industrial Revolution
Week 7 : 22 April - 26 April	Lecture	7.1 The Age of Empire: Asia, Africa and Latin America 7.2 Military training day no lecture
	Tutorial	No tutorial
Week 8 : 29 April - 3 May	Lecture	8.1 Key Economists: Smith and Ricardo 8.2 Economic Aspects of Cold War in Asia
	Tutorial	India and China in the Industrial Age
Week 9 : 6 May - 10 May	Lecture	9.1 Making a New Economic World Order after the Depression 9.2 The End of the Bretton Woods System
	Tutorial	Key Economic Ideas and Cold War Conflicts in Asia
Week 10 : 13 May - 17 May	Lecture	10.1 No lecture 10.2 Case Study: Australia's Minerals Boom
	Tutorial	Remaking the World Economic Order After the Depression
	Assessment	In Class Test 13 May 2024
Week 11 : 20 May - 24 May	Lecture	11.1 Neoliberal Capitalism 11.2 Trade and Investment Agreement 1
	Tutorial	The end of Bretton Woods.
Week 12 : 27 May - 31 May	Lecture	12.1 Trade and Investment Agreements II 12.2 Global Financial Crisis
	Tutorial	Neoliberal Capitalism.
Week 13 : 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	13.1 Wealth and Poverty: Neoliberalism and after 13.2 Course Review/Exam Preparation
	Tutorial	Global Financial Crisis

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

This course commences by exploring the emergence of capitalism as an economic system in the period from c.1500 to 1770, the association of capitalism with the rise of the West, and the implications of slavery and Western conquest for other parts of the world. It goes on to discuss the emergence of industrial capitalism from 1770 to 1870 and the implications of industrial capitalism for Europe and North America as well as for Asia, Africa and Latin America. It then moves to a discussion of era of 'monopoly capitalism' from 1870 to 1944, the connection between capitalism and imperialism and the tensions within monopoly capitalism that led to the world wars and Depression. The course then discusses the era of 'regimented capitalism' from 1944 to the 1970s, examining the rise and fall of the Bretton Woods system, the economic basis of conflicts in the 'third world' and Australia's enrichment through mineral wealth. The final phase of the course examines neoliberal capitalism, its mixed effects in the West, tensions within it that led to the Global Financial Crisis and the persistence of inequality both within and between countries during this phase of capitalism. The following lecture and tutorial schedule may be subject to minor changes. Please see Moodle for the latest version. Week Date L

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are no set texts for this course; weekly digitised readings are provided on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

There are no set texts for this course; weekly digitised readings are provided on Moodle.

Additional Costs

Not applicable.

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	David Lee		Building 28-205	0251145068	Available for consultation during work hours via Teams, Zoom or Collaborate Ultra. Please phone or email to make an appointment.	No	No
	Clinton Fernandes		Building 29 Room 2002	02 5114 5064	Available for consultation during work hours via Teams, Zoom or Collaborate Ultra. Please phone or email to make an appointment.	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of each course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups (where applicable). Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for your course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and

professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct.

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Equitable Learning Services (ELS)

Students living with neurodivergent, physical and/or mental health conditions or caring for someone with these conditions may be eligible for support through the Equitable Learning Services team. Equitable Learning Services is a free and confidential service that provides practical support to ensure your mental or physical health conditions do not adversely affect your studies.

Our team of dedicated **Equitable Learning Facilitators (ELFs)** are here to assist you through this process. We offer a number of services to make your education at UNSW easier and more equitable.

Further information about ELS for currently enrolled students can be found at: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. All students are expected to adhere to UNSW's Student Code of Conduct. Find relevant information at: [Student Code of Conduct \(unsw.edu.au\)](https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/student-code-of-conduct)

Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. It is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own, and can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidental copying from a source without acknowledgement.

For more information, please refer to the following:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Special Consideration

Special Consideration is the process for assessing and addressing the impact on students of

short-term events, that are beyond the control of the student, and that affect performance in a specific assessment task or tasks.

Applications for Special Consideration will be accepted in the following circumstances only:

- Where academic work has been hampered to a substantial degree by illness or other cause;
- The circumstances are unexpected and beyond the student's control;
- The circumstances could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and either:

(i) they occurred during a critical study period and was 3 consecutive days or more duration, or a total of 5 days within the critical study period; or

(ii) they prevented the ability to complete, attend or submit an assessment task for a specific date (e.g. final exam, in class test/quiz, in class presentation)

Applications for Special Consideration must be made as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and at the latest within three working days of the assessment or the period covered by the supporting documentation.

By sitting or submitting the assessment task the student is declaring that they are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration (UNSW 'fit to sit or submit' requirement).

Sitting, accessing or submitting an assessment task on the scheduled assessment date, after applying for special consideration, renders the special consideration application void.

Find more information about special consideration at: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special/consideration/guide>

Or apply for special consideration through your [MyUNSW portal](#).

Late Submission of assessment tasks (other than examinations)

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as

early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.