Capitalism, currently the globally dominant form of economic organization, was born in early modern Europe. This course analyzes the protracted, uneven, and contested emergence of the new economic and social order. Much of the required reading focuses on Britain, the first nation to industrialize, but other readings and reports will incorporate the experiences of other countries and areas.

Each student should purchase the following paperbacks:

Robert DuPlessis, Transitions to Capitalism in Early Modern Europe
Steven King and Geoffrey Timmins, Making Sense of the Industrial Revolution
Kenneth Morgan, Slavery, Atlantic Trade and the British Economy, 1660-1800

Many of the readings will be in electronic reserves, accessed through Blackboard on the web; a brief guide to using Blackboard will be distributed separately. A small number of readings will be on General and/or Honors Reserves and are so indicated below.

The course will be run as a colloquium, so all students must participate actively and in an informed manner in class discussions. Part of each student’s grade will be determined by the quality of class participation. The other requirements for the course are:

Two in-class reports of 3-6 pages, several of which will be delivered in each class meeting between 28 January and 22 April. These reports, intended to broaden and deepen class discussions grounded in common reading, will be based on additional articles and/or books that will be specified on separate assignment sheets. The written reports are due on the date of the class in which they are orally delivered.

A final paper, on a subject chosen in consultation with the instructor, of 15-20 pages (4000-5000 words), due at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 May.

This course, like any other, is premised on mutual respect and honesty. Thus I expect that the work you submit is your own. Plagiarism will be severely penalized: any work containing plagiarized material will be granted the grade of no credit and may subject you to prosecution before the CJC. In order to clarify the issue of academic honesty, I will distribute copies of the History Department's guidelines. When in doubt, check with me.
# SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

1. **(21 Jan.)** What Is Capitalism? What is Transition?
   - DuPlessis, *Transitions*, Preface and chap. 1
   - Maurice Dobb, *Studies in the Development of Capitalism*, chap. 1 (Blackboard)

2. **(28 Jan.)** Agricultural Revolution(s)?
   - King and Timmins, *Making Sense*, chap. 6
   **Reports** on agrarian change or lack thereof

3. **(4 Feb.)** Processes of Industrialization
   **Reports** on proto-industrialization and technological change

4. **(11 Feb.)** Was there an Industrial Revolution?
   - Michael Fores, “The Myth of a British Industrial Revolution” (Blackboard)
   - Maxine Berg and Pat Hudson, “Rehabilitating the industrial revolution” (Blackboard)
   **Reports** on understandings of the Industrial Revolution

5. **(18 Feb.)** Consumption: New Attitudes and Behavior?
   - King and Timmins, *Making Sense*, chap. 5
   - Jan de Vries, “Industrial revolution and industrious revolution” (Blackboard)
   - Jan de Vries, “Between purchasing power and the world of goods” (Blackboard)
   - Ben Fine and Ellen Leopold, “Consumerism and the Industrial Revolution” (Blackboard)
   **Reports** on new patterns of consumption

6. **(25 Feb.)** Atlantic Slavery and Atlantic Economy
   - Morgan, *Slavery, Atlantic Trade and the British Economy*
   - DuPlessis, *Transitions*, pp. 190-206
   **Reports** on the purported contributions of the Atlantic economy to European economic development

7. **(4 Mar.)** Capital, Slavery, and Industrialization
   - King and Timmins, *Making Sense*, chap. 4
   - Eric Williams, selections from *Capitalism and Slavery* (Blackboard)
   - Stanley Engerman, “The Atlantic Economy of the Eighteenth Century” (Blackboard)
   - David Eltis and Stanley Engerman, “The Importance of Slavery and the Slave Trade to Industrializing Britain” (Blackboard)
   **Reports** on relations between slavery and industrialization

**SPRING VACATION**
8. (18 Mar.) State and Economy
   S. R. Epstein, “Craft Guilds, Apprenticeship, and Technological Change in Preindustrial Europe” (Blackboard)
   Patrick O’Brien, “Central government and the economy, 1688-1815” (Blackboard)
   Reports on mercantilism and other engagements between governments and the economy

9. (25 Mar.) Comparative industrialization: why was Britain different?
   François Crouzet, “England and France in the Eighteenth Century: A Comparative Analysis of Two Economic Growths” (Blackboard)
   Sidney Pollard, “Industrialization and the European Economy” (Blackboard)
   E. A. Wrigley, “The Divergence of England” (Blackboard)
   Reports focusing on the alleged “uniqueness” of the British economic experience

10. (1 Apr.) Pre-industrial and industrial work
    DuPlessis, Transitions, chap. 7
    King and Timmins, Making Sense, pp. 88-100
    Chris Middleton, “Women’s Labour and the Transition to Pre-industrial Capitalism” (Blackboard)
    Maxine Berg, “What Difference did Women’s Work Make to the Industrial Revolution?” (Blackboard)
    Maxine Berg, “Factories, workshops, and industrial organisation” (Blackboard)
    Reports on gender and labor and on aspects of work experience

11. (8 Apr.) Interpretations of the rise of capitalism:
    Reports on understandings of the emergence of capitalism

12. (15 Apr.) Interpretations of the rise of capitalism:
    Karl Marx, Capital, vol. I, chap. 1, parts 1,2, 3 (4 introductory paragraphs) and 4; chap. 26; and chap. 32 [General and Honors Reserve]
    Reports on understandings of the emergence of capitalism

13. (22 Apr.) Industrialization, households, and material life
    King and Timmins, Making Sense, chaps. 8 and 9
    Reports on the effects of industrialization on aspects of everyday life

14. (29 Apr.) Family and environment in industrial society
    King and Timmins, Making Sense, chaps. 7 and 10

8 May FINAL ESSAY DUE