

Comparative Economics and the Origins of Modern-day Banking ECONOMICS 203

Instructor Dr. Valentina Galvani
e-mail: vgalvani@ualberta.ca

May 27-June 22, 2018

Lectures **Monday/Wednesday**, 8:30 to 11:30. All-day field trips on Tuesdays

Office Hours: location and time TBA.

Textbooks

1. *The Economy of Renaissance Florence* by Richard A. Goldthwaite (2011). Available at the UofA library (e-book).
2. *Financial Structures and Regulation: A Comparison of Crises in the UK, USA, and Italy* by A. Roselli (2012). Available at the UofA library (e-book).

Course Objectives

This course relies on historical examples to illustrate the working of the banking system. The discourse will include broad brush illustrations of the fundamental regulatory principles that have guided the development of the banking industry in four countries: Canada, the UK, the US, and Italy. The discussion will employ examples drawing from three separate time periods, namely the Renaissance, the interwar period (1920-1939) and the post-World War II years, up to 2010, with the inclusion of the 2007-2009 financial crisis. No formal economic model will be covered. Hence students do not require to display their quantitative skill to be successful in this courses.

All-day field trips: Siena, May 29; Perugia, June 5; Florence, June 12.

Prerequisites: Pre-requisites waived

Grades

Students will be assigned three short papers (about 1,500 words each) to summarize assigned readings. Students are encouraged to discuss the course material among themselves, but the essays should be the outcome of their individual reflections. Each essay will be evaluated according to 3-point bundles of criteria, which are (1) evidence of doing the reading, (2) evidence of following lecture and discussion, (3) clarity of exposition. Essays are due at the beginning of the lecture, on the due date.

The breakdown of the scores is shown below. Due dates are tentative.

Essay I (30%)

Due Date: June 6

Essay II (30%)

Due Date: June 13

Essay III (40%)

Due Date: June 20

Two words about the grading system: Grades reflect judgments of student achievement made by your instructor. These judgments are based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance.

Handwritten essays will not be accepted, save exceptional circumstances. Submission is in the electronic form, again, barring exceptional circumstances. The penalty for a late assignment is 5% (of the total course points) per each day after the due date.

Accommodating Disabilities

If you have a disability or condition that may require some modifications, please contact the SAS (2-800 Students' Union Building; PH: (780)492-3381; TTY: (780)248-1665) and obtain an assessment as to what accommodations should be made. The SAS office will then provide you with a "Letter of Introduction" that you should bring to the instructor. You are also required to complete an "Exam Schedule" form for SAS and take an "Exam Instructions and Authorization" form to the instructor. This will ensure that all appropriate arrangements are made for you. NOTE: SAS not only provides services to students with obvious and visible disabilities but also those with a variety of "hidden" disabilities. These may be as much disabling as the visible ones.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- "Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar."
- "The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offense. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University."
- "Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s)."