

ECON 4298 - 19995

Independent Study (Independent Study)

Students who take my Econ 4389 course may also take my Economics 4298 - Special Problems in Development in which they will add one of the assigned choices which they did not use for the regular class and *Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers Who Turned The Tide in the Second World War* by [Paul Kennedy](#) , Random House (January 29, 2013).

Those taking Econ 3351 will add *The Taste of War: World War II and the Battle for Food* by [Lizzie Collingham](#), Penguin, 2012 and the assigned choice which they did not use for the regular class. This course will be offered only to those who need two hours to graduate in December or in May 2014.

There are a limited number of topics on which students will do their papers. They correspond to topics that students taking my courses in Fall 2013 will do research for a class presentation. Students taking 3351 or 4398 will be required to work with the group in class doing the presentation and be part of the presentation unless they have a course conflict. More details on presentation and topics will be provided, posted and sent out to all students registered for my courses. Updated guidelines for writing paper will be posted. URL for the guideline posting will be emailed to all students on the 1st day of class and again on the 1st day after the course [registration](#) is complete.

Topics for 4389 are:

- Trends in Food Safety over the last 100 years or so.
- Trends in Technology in Food Production, Preservation, Preparation and Nutrition over the last 100 years or so.
- Biotechnology in Agriculture - Yields, Safety (in production and consumption), Environmental Impact and Benefits (ex. Vitamin A enhanced rice).
- Trends in Global Poverty and Hunger since 1950.
- Trends in Global Life Expectancy since 1950.
- Trends in Global Population since 1950.
- Trends in Global Infant and Child Mortality Since 1960.

Project Topics for 3351 are:

- Trends in Global Food Production since 1960

- Trends in Global Poverty and Hunger since 1950.
- Trends in Global Life Expectancy since 1950.
- Trends in Global Population since 1950.
- Trends in Global Infant and Child Mortality Since 1960.

In each of my courses this semester, I am using a book on World War II. Students taking my Econ 4298 or my Econ 4398 will be required to read both of them. These are not courses in World War II. From these books in writing your papers, use only the minimum factual information about the war in order to explain the larger point of the books. Namely for the Collingham book, it is the importance of food production in conflicts between nations and for the Kennedy book, it is the importance of science, technology and creative innovation for nations to succeed in international conflict. In other words, what do we learn from them about succeeding in a globalized world? Important note - war is a zero or negative sum game where there are both winners and losers. Globalization can have competitions or conflicts that are win/lose but it can also have competitions that are win/win or lose/lose. What do we learn from these books about different kinds of competition and how to succeed in them?