

SOSC5720: Economic Development in China

Class Hours: Monday 18:00-20:50 p.m.

Fall 2023

Instructor: Wen WANG

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Class Room: 3494

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Course Description

This course focuses on economic reforms and development in China. We will study the pathology of Chinese economy, the largest developing economy in the world. In particular, we will try to explain what prevented China from economic development, why China's economic reform since 1978 created a rapid economic development and what the problems are in China's economic development. The course is a combination of solid analysis on Chinese institutions as well as comprehensive investigations on Chinese statistical data. Though we do use certain empirical papers as supporting evidence, this course does not place an emphasis on sheer statistical techniques. Nonetheless, basic knowledge in statistics or economics will benefit.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Enhance understandings of economic development with applications to Chinese economy and Chinese institutions.
- Apply basic economic theory and empirical analysis to major Chinese economic development episodes and major Chinese institutions.
- Explore frontier literature recently published on Chinese economic development in leading journals.
- Translate interest in Chinese economy into a significant research question and write a good quality research paper.

Course Policy

Assessments

The assessments of the course will be composed of four parts:

Assessment	Score	Due Date
Class discussion and participation	10%	-
Two Assignments	25%	OCT 30& NOV 13 (6:00 p.m.)
Mid-term presentation	25%	OCT 30
Final presentation	20%	NOV 27
Final term paper	20%	DEC 15

- **10%** of your grade will be determined by your attendance and participation in class.¹ For each lecture, sufficient time will be reserved for student discussions of the topic covered. Please read the key readings assigned in advance and come well-prepared to discuss the insights you have gained from them.
- **25%** of your grade will be determined by two assignments. The purpose of these assignments is to improve your ability of critical thinking and your skill of data analysis.
 - Data Analysis: (5-10 pages), 15%
 - **Data source:** you can search data by yourself. The data can be used for final paper.
 - **Format:** A4 size, 1-inch margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1.25 spaced
 - **Structure:** 1. summarize data source and structure, including key variables, time horizon, geographic horizon, data source and collection methods; 2. summary statistics and interpretations of statistics; 3. trend, spatial distribution, frequency, variations; 4. basic regression and interpretation of the results; 5. graphs, chart, figures, tables; 6.reference.
 - Referee Report: (3 pages), 10%
 - **Paper:** you can assign one paper from our paper list using Canvas page.
 - **Format:** A4 size, 1-inch margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1.25 spaced
 - **Structure:** 1. summarize the paper, including its research question, contribution, data, methods, and conclusion; 2. verify how the data/method help address the problem 3. thinking about the reasons for choosing the methods in the paper (i.e., data limitation, story related reasons) and whether other methods are applicable using same data for the same research question.

- **25%** of your grade will be determined by a mid-term presentation of your data analysis. When one is presenting, the other group will act as discussants, i.e. stopping and asking the presenters questions. Students need to submit the presentation slides through their email to the TA one day before the presentation. We will take a note of each group's performance (the extent of preparation, the clarification of the presentation, the Question and Answer session), in order to give fair grades.
 - **Presentation: 8 min presentation + 1 min discussion (Tentative)**
Time: OCT 30;
Aim: introduce the **data**, its **background and structure**, and **data usage**
Schedule: assign your presentation time using [the Canvas Page](#).
- **40%** of your grade will be determined by a term paper (**20%**) and a presentation (**20%**) (**17 min presentation + 3 min discussion (Tentative)**).
 The final paper should be revolved around a topical issue in contemporary China. The references and topics covered in the course might provide you with some helpful guidelines. And for those of you who already acquired sound quantitative skills you can choose to undertake empirical analysis using available data. You are welcome to consult me or the TA regarding the choice of your essay before working on it. Please assign your presentation time using [the Canvas Page](#).
 - **Format:** up to 25 pages including reference, tables and charts; A4 size, 1-inch margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1.25 spaced
 - **Structure:**
Abstract: (1 page, 100-150 words) summary of key points for non-experts
Introduction: (2-3 pages) research question, research significance, summary of research methods and results
Literature Review: (1-2 pages) a review of previous relevant research, justification of your contribution to literature
Data: data collection process, variable of interest, summary statistics of data
Method: data analysis, models, and quantitative methods
Empirical Analysis: regression results and interpretations of the results
Reference: see [referencing guide](#) for reference format
 - **NOV 27** is reserved for you to present your own research in class. You may incorporate the comments received during your talk into the final revisions.
 - **DEC 15** is the submission date of the term paper with revisions.
- **Tutorial:(Tentative)**
 1. instructions for R; 2. data analysis and fundamental quantitative methods

Grading Policy

- **Late submission:** late delivery of due items will **NOT** be accepted.
- **Re-grade policy:** if you want to ask for regrading, please submit your argument in writing along with your assignment. We will reassess your entire assignment using the copies we saved for regrading. The answer to “[grade grubbing](#)” is “no” and your grade may end up lower after reassessment.

E-mail Policy

I am usually quick to respond to student emails. To avoid missing your emails, I prefer you answer my email in 2 days. I will not respond to certain emails students sent including emails for missed class for which there was no presentation, emails to request an extension on an assignment for which the syllabus already established the deadline.

Free-rider Policy

- [Guidance to avoid or deal with the free-rider issue](#)
- I will not define anybody to be “free rider” directly. If all the other team members agree that they don’t want to keep collaborating with one person, please comply the following rules to split the team: 1. each group member need to send an email to TA to justify their request. 2. the peer evaluation (10% of total score) will not be split. 3. the student who leaves the group must find a new proposal & presentation topic.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

HKUST is committed to high standards of [academic honesty](#). Cheat and plagiarism are not acceptable. According to guidelines of the university, plagiarism/cheat cases typically resulted in at least the failure of a course. If you have any concern about this, include a proper citation/quotes and use software(i.e., [turnitin](#), [iThenticate](#)) to detect plagiarism.

To protect personal information and team registration information, **please go to Canvas to download the syllabus with hyperlinks.**

Class Schedule (Tentative)

Please check the class schedule for updates as class contents are subject to change, contingent on enrollment size, mitigating circumstances and the progress we make as a class.

Week	Topic	Date	Notes	Due
1	Course Introductions	Sep 4	Lecture	
2	Economic Decentralization	Sep 11	Lecture	
3	Political Centralization	Sep 18	Lecture	
4	Central and Local Relationship in China	Sep 25	Lecture	
5	Regional Competition	Oct 9	Lecture	
6	Regional Reform	Oct 16	Lecture	
7	Mid-term Presentations	Oct 30		Data Analysis (OCT 30)
8	Township	Nov 6	Lecture	
9	Financial Market	Nov 13	Lecture	Referee Report (NOV 13)
10	Enterprise	Nov 20	Lecture	
11	Final Presentation	Nov 27	Lecture	
		DEC 15		Final Paper

Textbook and Reference

Xu, Chenggang (2011), "The Fundamental Institutions of China's Reforms and Development," *The Journal of Economic Literature*, 49(4): 1076-1151. Despite being an article, it is comprehensive almost like a textbook.

Link: <http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jel.49.4.1076>

Brandt, Loren and Thomas Rawski (2008), *China's Great Economic Transformation*, Cambridge University Press.

Link: <http://catalog.ust.hk/catalog/archives/716732>

Required reading list: a selection of articles will be uploaded to the canvas website each week along with discussion questions.

Resources

Research Topics

- [Research Topics](#) (see in Canvas)
- [Data Sources](#) (see in Canvas)

Reading

- [Reading Guide](#)
- [A Review of the Literature](#)

Writing

- [Referee Report Template](#)
- [How to Write an Effective Referee Report and Improve the Scientific Review Process](#)
- [Guidelines to Write a Referee Report](#)
- [Research Paper Template \(20-page\)](#)
- [Writing Tips For Economics Research Papers](#)

Programming

- [Download R](#)
- [Download RStudio](#)
- [Basic R Tutorial](#)