SOSC5720: Economic Development in China

Class Hours: TU 19:00-21:50 p.m.

Spring 2023

Instructor: Wen WANG   Class Room: *3494*

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TA: E-mail:

Office Hours: Office:

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%	Mar 24& Apr 12 (6:00 p.m.)
Mid-term presentation	25%	Mar 28
Final presentation	20%	May 9
Final term paper	20%	May 19

- **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 or choose from our data list.

    - **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/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.

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[1]we randomly select 10 classes to calculate attendance. You have probability to get free absence.

- **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)**
    <u>Time</u>: **March 28**;
    <u>Aim</u>: introduce the **data**, its **background and structure**, and **data usage**
    <u>Schedule</u>: assign your presentation time using the Canvas Page before Mar 10.

- **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 before Apr 10.

    – **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:**
    <u>Abstract</u>: (1 page, 100-150 words) summary of key points for non-experts
    <u>Introduction</u>: (2-3 pages) research question, research significance, summary of research methods and results
    <u>Literature Review</u>: (1-2 pages) a review of previous relevant research, justification of your contribution to literature
    <u>Data</u>: data collection process, variable of interest, summary statistics of data
    <u>Method</u>: data analysis, models, and quantitative methods
    <u>Empirical Analysis</u>: regression results and interpretations of the results
    <u>Reference</u>: see referencing guide for reference format

    – **May 9th** is reserved for you to present your own research in class. You may incorporate the comments received during your talk into the final revisions.

    – **May 19th** is the submission date of the term paper with revisions.

- **Tutorial: Mar 21 (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.

- **Grading Guidelines:** https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/grading-courses

Grade	Percentage
A	10-25%
B	25-40%
C	25-40%
D	5-10%
F	0-5%

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	Feb 7	Lecture	
2	Economic Decentralization	Feb 14	Lecture	
3	Political Centralization	Feb 21	Lecture	
4	Central and Local Relationship in China	Feb 28	Lecture	
5	Regional Competition	Mar 7	Lecture	
6	Regional Reform	Mar 14	Lecture	
7	Tutorial	Mar 21	Lecture	Data Analysis (Mar 24)
8	Mid-term Presentations	Mar 28	Presentation	
9	Township	Apr 4	Lecture	Referee Report (Apr 12)
10	Financial Market	Apr 18	Lecture	
11	Enterprise	Apr 25	Lecture	
12	Major problems in China	May 2	Lecture	
13	Final Presentation	May 9	Presentation	
		May 19		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