SOSC 4260: China’s Economic Transformation
HKUST, Spring 2019

Course Description

Course Meeting Time and Place

Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:50pm, Main Academic Building Room 6573 (Lift 29-30)

Contact Information and Office Hours

Instructor: Albert Park, Chair Professor of Social Science and Professor of Economics and Public Policy
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11am-12pm, or by appointment
TA: Katrina Butaeva (kbutaeva@connect.ust.hk)

Course Content and Approach

This course studies the process of economic development in China with emphasis on understanding economic reforms in mainland China since 1978. One goal of the course is to deepen understanding various aspects of China’s development experience by examining in depth influential studies and reports on the Chinese economy. A second goal of the course is to gain insight into how empirical research in economics is conducted through rigorous application of economic theory and econometric methods to available data. Lectures will focus on in-depth analysis and discussion of specific issues related to China’s economic reform. Course readings will include challenging academic papers, students will be expected to complete readings ahead of lectures to facilitate comprehension and discussion.

Prerequisites

Introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics. Familiarity with calculus and basic statistics is recommended.

Course Website

There is canvas website for the course, which all students should visit frequently to read announcements, download course materials such as handouts, powerpoints, and required readings, and to ask questions or discuss course topics online. Registered students automatically have access to the site.
Readings

All required readings will be made available on the course website.


Requirements

All students must take a midterm examination, make two in-class presentations, and write a research paper. The mid-term will be taken in class and will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The two class presentations include a 10-minute report on a reading (with a partner) and participation in 30-minute debate in teams. A list of suggested readings for presentation will be provided.

*Term Paper.* The papers are on original research topics chosen by students. For economics majors, the term paper meets the Econ 4670 requirement. Group projects are encouraged and can include no more than 3 students in a group. The length of the paper must be from 7-10 pages per student. Individual papers should be 10-12 pages/ Students should turn in a one-page description of the paper topic no later than March 13\textsuperscript{th}, after which individual meetings will be scheduled to discuss the research plan in depth. I am happy to read one draft of the paper and provide comments before the final version is submitted, but only if the draft is submitted by April 26th. Term papers are due in class on the last day of class May 8\textsuperscript{th}. A half grade will be deducted for each day that the paper is late (5pm each day). This policy will be enforced strictly in fairness to those who hand in their assignments on time and to the person who must grade the papers (me). Extension requests will be granted only under exceptional circumstances and must be made as soon as the student is aware of a possible conflict.

Grading

The weighting for final grade determination is the following: mid-term exam 35 percent, research paper 35 percent, in-class presentations 15% each.
### Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Documentary: The Mao years</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>The Problem of State-Owned Enterprises</td>
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March 6 Fiscal System and Decentralization


March 8 Financial System, Soft Budget Constraint, and Shadow Banking


March 13 International Trade


March 15 FDI in China


March 20 China’s Belt and Road Initiative

TBA

March 22 Economic Growth


March 27 Governance and Economic Development


March 29 Migration and Discrimination


April 3 Labor Markets

April 10  The Future of Jobs in China

TBA

April 12  Poverty and Inequality


April 17  Midterm Examination

April 24  Demography and Family Planning


April 26  Challenges of Population Aging


May 3  Debates

May 8  Debates

Term Paper Due