

**University of Minnesota**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Spring 2014**  
**Econ 3960: Chinese Economy**

**Instructor:** Shihui Ma

**Office:** Hanson Hall 3-109

**Office hours:** Wednesday 3:00pm-4:00pm, Friday 2:00-3:00pm

**E-mail:** mas00001@umn.edu     **NOTE:** please use '3960--- name' as the subject.

**Course webpage:** <https://ay14.moodle.umn.edu/course/view.php?id=5586>

**Lecture:** MW: 4:00-5:15pm BlegH 245

### **1. Course description**

This course examines the historical and economic development of China, with an emphasis on economic indicators and the role of China in the world economy today. In particular, some important issues regarding China's transition from a command economy to a market economy will be analyzed using basic economic tools. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class, investigate issues of interest, and gain experience in researching economic issues.

Prerequisite: Econ 1101 and Econ 1102, or other equivalent courses.

### **2. Course Objectives**

This course will attempt to address and analyze the economic development in China from 1949 using tools from ECON 1101 and 1102. First, we will examine the economic conditions and policies in the pre-1979 reform China. Then we will trace the effects of policy changes from 1978 in various economic indicators. We will give special attention to the current economic issues in China including state-owned-enterprise, the financial system, regional inequality and China's role in the today's world economy.

### **3. Textbook**

**Required:**

The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth by Barry J. Naughton, The MIT Press, 2006

**Recommended**

The China Miracle by Lin, Cai and Li, Chinese University Press, 2003

In addition to the textbook, which serves as the main part of required readings of the course, more readings will be assigned during the course.

### **4. Course requirements**

#### **4.1. Attendance and Class participation**

Given the course's format, I expect you to read in advance the material for every session. Regular attendance is expected and active participation is encouraged.

#### **4.2. Group Research Paper**

A successful completion of the research project includes a proposal and a final presentations as well as a final paper. You may work in groups of no more than 5 students. A list of topics will be provided for this project. Students are encouraged to pick a topic of interest or suggest their own after discussing with the instructor. It is recommended to begin research early during the course and identify the topic of your research project as early as

possible. A complete description of the research project is attached at the end of this syllabus.

#### 4.4. News presentation

You are required to present recent news related to China at least once throughout the semester. The presentations will be done at the beginning of each class and shall be no longer than 10 minutes.

#### 4.5. Exams

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. The final exam is cumulative, and covers all the material in the course.

The midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, from 4:00pm to 5:15pm in class. There will be no make-up exam for the midterm exam (if there is a documented family or medical emergency, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final).

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 15, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. According to University policy, you may request a make-up only if you have:

- Documentation of a family or medical emergency,
- Another test scheduled at the same time, or
- Three exams within a 16-hour period.

If you have any of the last two complications, make sure you talk to me a week before the final exam.

#### 4.6. Re-grading

If you disagree with the grading of an assignment or a test, you may submit it for review. You must have a written argument for why you should be awarded more points: Please note that without this written notice I will not accept any request for re-grading. Also, you must submit these disputes within two class periods of having been returned the problem set or exam, or the grade is final. Assignments written in pencil will not be re-graded.

### 5. Grading policy and grading scale

The weights for the final score will be as follows:

Component	Percentage of the final grade
Group Research Presentation	35%
News Presentation	5%
Midterm 2	25%
Final	35%

Below is the grading scale for the course. I reserve the right to lower these requirements, but I will not raise the requirements.

Percentage	100-92	91-90	89-88	87-82	81-80	79-78	77-72	71-70	69-68	67-60	59-0
Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F

Note: University policy mandates that those taking the class S/N must earn an equivalent of C-or better to receive a S.

#### 6. Tentative schedule

Date	Topics	Readings
Sep, 8	Course introduction; Geographical and historical setting	Chpt 1-2 of Naughton
Sep, 15	Chinese economy between 1949 and 1978: an overview	Chpt 2,3 of Lin et al.
Sep, 22	Chinese economy between 1949 and 1978: Policies	Chpt 3 of Naughton; Chpt 4 of Lin et al.
Sep, 29	The economic reform of China since 1978: an overview	Chpt 4 of Naughton; Chpt 5-6 of Lin et al.
Oct, 6	Research Proposal Due, Proposal Presentation	
Oct, 13	Growth engine 1: Technological growth	Chpt 6, 11, 15 of Naughton;
Oct, 20	Midterm Review and Midterm in Class	
Oct, 27	Growth engine 2: Globalization - international trade	Chpt 15 of Naughton; Chpt 10 of Lin et al.
Nov, 3	Growth engine 2: Globalization - FDI	Chpt 16 of Naughton; Assigned papers
Nov, 10	Growth engine 3: Rural-Urban Divide and Demographics	Chpt 5, 7 of Naughton
Nov, 17	Growth engine 3: Urbanization – China’s next transformation and labor market	WB report: Urban China
Nov, 24	Student presentation	
Dec, 1	Student presentation	
Dec, 8	Overview- Current issues in China; Population and Migration	
Dec, 15	Final Exam in Class	

Note: Students are responsible for the course webpage frequently for announcements and updates on the class schedule.

### **Specifications for Research paper ( 40%)**

#### **A. Paper specifications:**

The research projects should be 15-18 pages, with 20 pages as the maximum. The paper must be typed in twelve point font and double spaced with one inch margins all around. Complete footnoting of all quotations and paraphrasing is essential. You may follow the style of citations used in an economics journal.

#### **B. The research projects include 2 parts.**

Part 1. Paper proposal + presentation (around 10 minutes)

Each group will send me a 1-2 page of paper proposal before your presentation. You may include

- a. a statement of the research question;
- b. a brief outline that shows the intended organization of the paper; and
- c. a preliminary bibliography of books and journal articles that will be used in the research.

Part 2. Research paper + presentation

Each group could sign up for a time slot to present in class, the presentation time would be around 30 minutes, followed by a brief discussion of the paper in class. So it would take up to 4 presentations per week.

Each group will submit a copy of a complete, typed draft with footnotes and bibliography exactly one week prior to the presentation.

#### **C. Academic Honesty**

Please refer to <http://www.econ.umn.edu/undergrad/rules.html>