



## 1. General Information

Course Subject	ECON
Course Number	2226
Course Title	Chinese Economy
Academic Years	2023-2024
Grading Method	Letter

## 2. Instructors

Dr Li, Jing  
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Consultation: Wed 4:45 PM-5:45 PM (By appointment)  
Subclasses: 1A, 1B

## 4. Course Description

Course Description	<p>This course provides a general introduction of China economy since 1949 with emphasis on the era of transition from a planned economy to a more market driven one. It aims to help students understand the development and transition of Chinese economy, the working of major market mechanism, as well as related issues that China encounters. Basic economic principles are used to explain the economic issues of modern China.</p> <p>Specifically, this course will start from an historical overview of China economy. Then it will talk about the economy reform, followed by the reform of firms and household behaviors that are specific to China. Next, it will focus on two important markets: financial market and housing market, focusing on the market mechanism, function of major players, and issues/concerns that may hinder economic development. Besides that, this course will also cover the topic about the interactions between China and the world by focusing on the international trade and foreign direct investments. Finally, this course will have an in-depth discussion of the development of China economy with specific emphasis on driving forces, obstacles, and problems associated.</p>
Free Elective	Yes

## 5. Course Objectives

1. The focus of this course is to develop students' ability to conduct applied economic analysis of Chinese economic issues. By highlighting several topics, this course will guide students to use the basic economic tools to systematically analyze economic problems in China. Besides that, this course provides students with diverse background general knowledge of Chinese economy, as well as the interactions among institutions and other major players in the process of economic development in China.
2. To provide a structured set of assessments of transition and development of China economy.
3. To guide students to apply basic economy theory and empirical analytic skills to study issues that are important to Chinese economic development.
4. To combine lecture, case studies and discussions, as well as project presentation for better development of

## 5. Course Objectives

students' communication and facilitation skills.

## 6. Faculty Learning Goals

Goal 1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline

Goal 2: Application and integration of knowledge

Goal 3: Inculcating professionalism

Goal 4: Developing global outlook

Goal 5: Mastering communication skills

Goal 6: Cultivating leadership

## 7. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Aligned Faculty Learning Goals					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
CLO1. Understand the transition and development of Chinese economy and identify current economic challenges in China.	✓	✓		✓		
CLO2. Critically exam major economic issues in China using basic economic theory and principles.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
CLO3. Develop analytical skills to systematically solve economic issues.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
CLO4. Demonstrate effective written skills, communication skills, and team work skills through discussion, presentations, and paper writing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 8. Course Teaching and Learning Activities

Course Teaching and Learning Activities #	Expected Study Hours	Study Load (% of study)
T&L1. Lectures with in-class discussion and class work	32	24.6
T&L2. Group-based project and presentation	20	15.4
T&L3. Term paper	40	30.8
T&L4. Self-study	38	29.2
	Total: 130	Total: 100

## 9. Assessment Methods

Assessment Methods	Description	Weight %	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
A1. Class Participation	1. Class Participation: 20% Effective participation is very important to guarantee the quality of the learning outcomes. Basically, I measure students' participation through two aspects: a. Attendance and punctuality: This is the basic requirement of participation. Students are required to attend all the classes and tutorials on time.	20%	1,2

## 9. Assessment Methods

	<p>Excused absence is allowed but has to notify the instructor and teaching assistant at least one day ahead. Sick leave can be requested on the day of class.</p> <p>b. Contribution of the discussion: Discussion is a very important part of the learning process of this class. During the process of lectures and presentations, you are encouraged to ask questions and give comments that could lead the discussion to a new direction. Please be less concerned about the “right” or “wrong”. The main purpose of the discussion is to help students develop the ability of systematic thinking and the skills of effective communication. All of your contributions are valuable and I will track all of your participation during the discussion.</p> <p>c. Note:</p> <p>i. For lectures that are delivered online (if any), students are required to finish reviewing all the related online materials (videos) before the next lecture day. Your reviewing records will be used as one reference for your evaluation.</p> <p>ii. If you are not comfortable discussing in class, please feel free to let me know. We can work together to get it solved.</p>		
A2. Quizzes	<p>2. Quizzes: 20%</p> <p>Quiz is used as an effective assessment of both students' learning and the instructor's teaching outcome. Two in-class quizzes will be provided. Each quiz will take one hour. Questions can be in the form of both multiple choices and short essays.</p> <p>Schedule of Quizzes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz One (Oct.29, 2023): focus on the class materials covered before the date of quiz one.</li> <li>• Quiz Two (Nov.10, 2023): focus on the materials from the date of quiz one until the last lecture before quiz two.</li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <p>No make-up quizzes will be provided unless you demonstrate in advance that you have significant reasons that prevent you from attending the in-class quiz (e.g. illness or injured confirmed by your doctor, or family emergency).</p>	20%	1,2,3
A3. Group Presentation	<p>3.Group Presentation: 30%</p> <p>Besides helping students familiarize the economy in China, group work fulfills another major objective of this course—developing analytical skills, communication skills, as well as presentation skills. Students should form a group and choose a topic/case related to the major topics listed below. Students can choose to present a topic such as discussing a puzzling phenomenon in the Chinese economy or conducting a case study during the transition of the economic process.</p> <p>How it works:</p> <p>Step 1: Form a group.</p> <p>Students are required to form a group with no more than 5 members (group size is up to change depending on the total number of students).</p>	30%	1,2,3,4

## 9. Assessment Methods

Step 2: Choose a topic.

- Self-selection period (until Sept 30th, 2023):

Students are allowed to group and select topics by themselves. A proposed list of topics is provided below. Students can choose a topic from this list or a new topic by themselves as long as it is related to the Economy of China.

As soon as you are done with the grouping and topic selection, each group should notify the instructor by email (name of members and topic). Each topic has ONLY one presentation and the first group notifying the instructor of their choice will be given the priority.

- Public-selection period (Oct 1st- Oct 4th, 2023):

During this period, a list of topics will be provided on Moodle system for registration. Each topic will only allow no more than 5 members (group size is up to change depending on the total number of students in the class).

Self-determined topics in the self-selection period with members fewer than 5, will also be listed on Moodle and are open to public selection.

Step 3: Give a presentation.

Each group will present their group work in the last two lectures of this semester.

About the presentation:

- Each group should prepare a 15-mins presentation and leave another 5 mins for questions and comments.
- Participation and contribution of the audience during the presentation will be recorded and counted as part of the evaluation for participation.

Proposed topics for presentation (based on previous years' records, reference only):

1) Economic Reform:

- Topic: The way of developing an innovation economy in China
- Topic: Position of Hong Kong in the economic development of the Greater Bay Area

2) Enterprises in China:

- Case study: SOE reform in China (For example Sinopec, Bright Dairy & Food)
- Case study: The future of the private firms in China (For example, Huawei, JD, or BYD)
- Topic: How Chinese Firms can survive the coronavirus?

3) Household Behaviors:

- Topic: e-commerce in China
- Topic: Post-coronavirus shopping in China

4) Financial System:

- Case study: Opportunity and challenges of Bank of China
- Question: Impact of aging in China on the financial system
- Question: Role of Hong Kong in RMB internationalization

5) Housing Market:

- Case study: The success of Vanke (Vanke is one of the largest real estate in China)
- Case study: Tips to China's Housing Market-from the crisis of Evergrande

## 9. Assessment Methods

	<p>6) Trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case study: Successful FDI case in China: e.g. Coca Cola</li> <li>• Topic: Globalization vs Anti-Globalization</li> <li>• Topic: Winner of the Trade War: US or China?</li> </ul> <p>7) Economic Growth and Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question: Comparisons of economic growth between China and the US (or other countries)</li> <li>• Question/Case study: Food safety issues in China</li> </ul>		
A4. Term Paper	<p>4. Term Paper: 30%</p> <p>The last assessment of this course is the individual term paper, which accounts for the most important part of your final grade. Based on the lectures, handouts, and all other reading materials covered in this class, each student should choose one specific topic and finish writing a term paper by the end of this semester. The purpose of this paper is to encourage students to develop the ability of critical thinking and learn to apply basic micro/macro theory to analyze economic issues in China.</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deadline for this paper is the last day of November (November 30th, 2023).</li> <li>• The topic should be specific and related to the materials covered in class. Students should submit the template of the paper proposal no later than the last day of October (October 31st, 2023).</li> <li>• Format of paper: (1) a cover page indicating the title of paper, name, student ID (if available), and department (if available); (2) double space with no more than 15 pages in total (including cover page, tables, graphs, reference, etc.); (3) Font: Times New Roman; size: 12.</li> <li>• Guideline of content: Students can choose to follow the logic of what—why—how to construct the paper (up to the student's preference). That means you are suggested to introduce the background and propose your research question/topic (what) in the first part of your paper. Then you should analyze the reason (why) and how this issue can be solved (how). Both quantitative and qualitative methods can be used in your paper (based on your specialization).</li> </ul>	30%	1,2,3,4

## 10. Course Grade Descriptors

A+,A,A-	Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.
B+,B,B-	Strong evidence of the ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.
C+,C,C-	Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at low levels of learning such as describe and apply but not at high levels of learning such as evaluate and synthesis.
D+,D	Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.
F	Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.

## 11. Course Content and Tentative Teaching Schedule

Topic/ Session	Date	Content
1		Introduction to China: An Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic facts of China</li> <li>• Overview of the Chinese Economy</li> </ul>
2		Market Transition: Strategy and Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socialist economy before the reform</li> <li>• Incentives, strategies and process of reform</li> <li>• Outcome, implications and issues of the reform</li> </ul>
3		Enterprises in China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State-Owned Enterprises</li> <li>• Firms in non-state sectors</li> </ul>
4		Chinese Households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenditure trend</li> <li>• Specific expenditure behavior by demo group</li> <li>• Implications on the Chinese Economy</li> </ul>
5		Financial Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banking system in China</li> <li>• Stock market in China</li> </ul>
6		Housing Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of housing market in China</li> <li>• Housing bubble</li> <li>• Relation with banking system and related policies</li> </ul>
7		Foreign Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of trade in China</li> <li>• Trade reform</li> <li>• Relation with major trade partners</li> </ul>
8		Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inward and outward FDI in China</li> <li>• Determinants and impact of FDI</li> </ul>
9		Economic growth and related issues in China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth performance of China Economy</li> <li>• Driving force of economic growth</li> <li>• Issues: overcapacity and pollution</li> <li>• The future of China</li> </ul>

## 12. Required/Recommended Readings & Online Materials

Reading	1. Naughton, Barry, "The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth", MIT Press, 2007. 2. Chow, Gregory C., "Chinas' Economic Transformation", Second Edition, Blackwell Publishing, 2007. 3. Kroeber, Arthur R., "China's Economy", Oxford University Press, 2016.
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## 13. Means / Processes for Student feedback on Course

✓	Conducting mid-term survey in additional to SETL around the end of the semester
	Online response via Moodle site
	Others

## 14. Course Policy

### **Academic Honesty:**

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>

Academic dishonesty is the behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. Any type of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, such as plagiarism, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration.

Students who fail to make a full declaration and proper citation (including the use of any AI tools) may face disciplinary action!

### **Late Submission:**

Students are required to hand in their course assignments, including proposals, essays, and presentation slides on or before the submission deadlines. Failure to observe this requirement will result in a reduction in coursework marks. For late submissions, it will result in a 5% reduction of the mark for the first calendar day of delay. Two, three, or four days of delay will get a 10%, 20%, and 40% reduction on the mark, respectively. Any assignment submitted over 5 calendar days after the deadline will not be accepted for assessment and will therefore be awarded a zero mark.

## 15. Additional Course Information

Please note that the syllabus and schedules may be changed at the instructor's discretion.