

Spring 2025

SOSC 4260 China's Economic Transformation [The Chinese Economy]

Tue/Thu 13:30 – 14:50, Room 4580 starting Week 2 (LTH in Week 1)

Instructor: Carsten A. HOLZ, socholz@ust.hk

Office hour: Tuesday 12:00-13:00, Room 2368

Teaching assistant: WANG Mingxiao, mwangcp@connect.ust.hk

In all email correspondence, include 'SOSC 4260' in the subject line.

Please read this syllabus before contacting the instructor or the teaching assistant.

If you want to contact more than one of us, please email one of us and cc to the other.

We use Canvas. In class, we use PowerPoint/visualizer/whiteboard.

Course description

This course provides an introduction to the economy of the People's Republic of China. The approach is non-mathematical. Prior knowledge of economics is beneficial but not required.

The objective of this course is two-fold:

- Know key facts about the Chinese economy.
- Use basic tools of economics to make sense of economic events and institutions in China.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Enter an academic, policy or business discussion of the Chinese economy in an informed manner.
- Bring a quality of judgment to dispersed information on the Chinese economy, whether that is in evaluating the reliability of the information, its significance given a particular question, or its relevance in a larger context.
- Apply economic theories and economic analysis to the economy of China.
- Independently investigate topics related to the Chinese economy.

The course covers a number of aspects of the Chinese economy:

- Economic history: Given China's technological superiority over the West at times in the past, why did China fall behind and not industrialize earlier?
- Economic geography: How does geography shape China's economy?
- Economic transition: China has undergone (and is still undergoing) a process of economic transition from a semi-planned to a market-oriented economy. What was / is this process? What made the transition so successful in terms of economic growth? What are the variations of government involvement and their implications?
- Economic development: How did economic development unfold across individual economic sectors, and how does China's experience relate to traditional concepts of development economics? What economic policies have been adopted and how have they affected economic development?
- Politics and culture: China's political institutions differ from those of the West, and so do many cultural and political values. How do they affect the economy?
- Globalization: The economic rise of China has implications for economies (and people) around the world through channels ranging from global trade to environmental issues.

Requirements and grading

- 20% One 1-page (500 word) interpretative précis of a reading in the syllabus with a 5-10 minute presentation to the class, followed by a brief open discussion in class. — Graded pass/fail. — Place the précis in ‘Discussions’ on CANVAS at least 24 hours before the class meets. — Starts Week 2 or 3. (Précis articles will be allocated on 11 February.) — Team work of up to three students is welcome. — See detailed instructions at the end of the syllabus. --- After your presentation (class), see the instructor for feedback.
- 16% Assignments, typically assigned weekly on Thursday and due the following Tuesday (8 * 2%). — Expect a 30-90 minute effort. — Graded pass/fail. — We should have 10 assignments in total and maximally 8 assignments count. — We may also have short mini assignments, typically assigned Tuesday, due Thursday, not submitted, not graded.
- 29% Exam 1, in class, closed book, Tuesday 25 March
- 29% Exam 2, in class, closed book, Thursday, 8 May
- 6% Class participation: quality and frequency (regular participation 3%, exceptional 6%)

Optional term paper: If you wish to write a term paper (see details at end of syllabus), then the term paper will count 29% towards the final grade, and all requirements above will be re-weighted (each multiplied by 0.71). Submission deadline: 12 May 2024, 12 noon.

You are expected to attend all classes and to, for each class, read the required readings and the 1-page précis that will be presented in class; please be prepared to ask questions about the précis or to offer thoughts.

Missing an exam, with valid excuse: In case of illness, a medically documented “sick leave” on the day of the exam is required to be excused. Family emergencies require objective documentation. If you miss the first exam *and are excused*, you may *substitute* a term paper for the missed term exam.

Missing an exam without valid excuse results in an exam score of zero.

Grading

(1) HKUST management prohibits “grading to a curve” and requires instructors to certify that they use “criterion-referencing” in grading (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/obelos-and-criterion-referenced-assessment-cra>).

(2) HKUST management encourages instructors to achieve a particular grade distribution (“grading to the curve”). See “Grade Distribution for Post-Course Review” at

<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/grading-courses>

HKUST management thus prohibits instructors from grading to the curve and encourages instructors to grade to the curve. We follow their orders.

Miscellanea

There are no extra-credit assignments.

The exams cover material presented/discussed in class and the required readings.

What we do in class may diverge from the required readings.

If you cannot attend a class, please catch up on your own or make arrangements with a fellow student to share their notes with you.

Faculty own the copyright to their instructional materials. Instructional material made available to students may not be posted online or distributed in any other form.

The class may not be recorded in any form.

Textbook, readings

The course draws on the following two textbooks, particularly the first one (Naughton), with both books available in the library as eBooks on reserve for this course:

- “BN:” Naughton, Barry. *The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth*. Second edition. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2018 (not 2007).
“AK:” Kroeber, Arthur R. *China's Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020 (not 2016).

Not specific to economics but covering much economics and economic policy, also on reserve for this course, is:

- Dikötter, Frank. *China after Mao: The Rise of a Superpower [1976-2012]*. Bloomsbury Press/Publ., 2022.

The same author, professor at Hong Kong University, has also written about other periods: *The Tragedy of Liberation: A History of the Chinese Revolution 1945-1957*. (publ. 2015) *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-62* (2018) *The Cultural Revolution: A People's History, 1962-1976*. (2016)

General readings

A research-oriented overview of the Chinese economy:

- “LBTR:” Brandt, Loren, and Thomas G. Rawski (eds.). *China's Great Economic Transformation*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

A wide variety of overview chapters (of varying quality):

- Garnaut, Ross, SONG Ligang, and CAI Fang. *China's 40 Years of Reform and Development 1978-2018*. Acton, ACT: Australian National University Press, 2018.
Free online at <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/series/china-update/china%E2%80%99s-40-years-reform-and-development-1978%E2%80%932018>

Two shorter, concise, research-focused and complementary overviews are:

- Brandt, Loren, Debin Ma, and Thomas G. Rawski. “From Divergence to Convergence: Reevaluating the History Behind China's Economic Boom.” *Journal of Economic Literature* 52, no. 1 (March 2014): 45-123.
XU Chenggang. “The Fundamental Institutions of China's Reforms and Development.” *Journal of Economic Literature* 49, no. 4 (Dec. 2011): 1076-1151.

Background readings on Chinese (economic) history

Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China*. Third edition, 2012. W.W. Norton & Company.

Fairbank, John King, and Merle Goldman. *China: A New History*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006. For this course, Part Three, and in particular Part Four, are of most interest (pp. 255-341, 343-470).

Mühlhahn, Klaus. *Making China Modern: From the Great Qing to Xi Jinping [1600-2010s]*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2019.

Overview (Table of Contents)

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 - 7.2.4 Economic development: fiscal system
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- Not covered except possibly through student presentation*
12. Sociology of China Research
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14. Inequality and Poverty
15. Social Security System

Class Schedule and Reading List

** (Potentially) Required readings: For each class, one or more required reading will be identified prior to the class. Read before coming to class.

* Available for précis/presentation. You can also propose an article not included below. Typically, only one précis/presentation per topic (section in the syllabus).

Non-starred literature is typically not suitable for a précis, but may still be of interest.

Access the required and potential précis readings on Canvas – Files or via the url given below. Access “BN” and “AK” as eBooks in library reserve for this course. If a reading cannot be accessed via Canvas and is difficult to find, please let the instructor know.

Week 1: Tuesday, 4 February, and Thursday, 6 February

0. Introduction

Syllabus

Film “How China Fooled the World,” BBC, 2015, 47min, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34261550> (or a 58min version at <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2m6u7y>).

More films: (1) “How China Rules the World,” dailymotion, 2016, 46min,

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5z39iv>;

(2) “What's going on with China's Economy?” BBC News, 28 January 2019, 3min,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSfTKWscwDA>;

(3) “China: A New World Order Episode 1,” BBC. 16 January 2022, 51min,

<https://www.bbselect.com/watch/china-a-new-world-order/>.

1. Why Care About the Chinese Economy?

AK 1 “Why China Matters” -- recommended

AK 12 “The Emerging Consumer Economy”

BN 1 “Introduction: The Chinese Economy in Context”

BN 7 “Growth and Structural Change”

(**) Holz, Carsten A. “China’s Economic Growth 1978-2025: What We Know Today about China’s Economic Growth Tomorrow.” *World Development* 36, no. 10 (Oct. 2008): 1665-1691.

Wright, Logan. “China’s Economy Has Peaked. Can Beijing Redefine its Goals.” *China Leadership Monitor*, Fall 2024, Issue 81, 1 September 2024, 30pp. At

<https://www.prleader.org/post/china-s-economy-has-peaked-can-beijing-redefine-its-goals>

Rosen, Daniel H. et al. “After the Fall: China’s Economy in 2025.” *Rhodium Group*, 31

December 2024 (blog entry). At <https://rhg.com/research/after-the-fall-chinas-economy-in-2025/>

Pettis, Michael. “The Only Five Paths China’s Economy Can Follow.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, China Financial Markets, 27 April 2022 (blog entry). At:

<https://carnegieendowment.org/chinafinancialmarkets/87007>

Lin, Justin Yifu. “China’s Growth Deceleration: Causes and Future Growth Prospect.”

Frontiers of Economics in China 14, no. 1 (2019): 26-52.

Holz, Carsten A. “China’s Investment Rate: Characteristics and Implications.” Mimeo, 22

April 2019. At <https://carstenholz.people.ust.hk/CarstenHolz-ChinaInvestmentRate-22Apr2019.pdf>

2. The Problem of Causality in the Social Sciences

** King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Ewing, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994, Chapter 3, “Causality and Causal Inference,” pp. 75-113, in particular pp. 75-85 and 91-5. If you want, skip the (little) statistics. Chs. 1 and 2 recommended.

Friedman, Milton. “The Methodology of Positive Economics.” In Milton Friedman. *Essays in Positive Economics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1953, pp. 3-46. Also at: https://www.wiwiss.fu-berlin.de/fachbereich/bwl/pruefungs-steuerlehre/loeffler/Lehre/bachelor/investition/Friedman_the_methology_of_positive_economics.pdf

Week 2: Tuesday, 11 February, and Thursday, 13 February

3. The Pre-1978 Economy

3.1. The Broad Historical Strokes

BN 3 “The Chinese Economy Before 1949” [skim quickly]

BN 4 “The Socialist Era, 1949-1978: Big Push Industrialization and Policy Instability” [skim quickly]

** Brandt, Loren, and Thomas G. Rawski. “China’s Great Boom as a Historical Process.” Chapter 21 in Debin Ma and Richard von Glahn (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of China*, Volume II, Cambridge, Mass: Cambridge University Press, 2022, pp. 775-828. Focus on pp. 775-93. If you have more time, read through p. 801. The content of the pages after p. 801 we will cover in some detail later in the course, using other sources (though feel free to obtain an overview here).

* Dernberger, Robert F. “The Role of the Foreigner in China’s Economic Development, 1840-1949” in Dwight H. Perkins (ed.), *China’s Modern Economy in Historical Perspective*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1975, pp. 19-47, 305-8.

3.2 Why Did China Not Industrialize Earlier?

** Elvin, Mark. *The Patterns of the Chinese Past*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1973, Chapter 17, “Quantitative Growth, Qualitative Standstill,” pp. 285-316.

* LIN, Justin Yifu. “The Needham Puzzle: Why the Industrial Revolution Did Not Originate in China.” *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 43, no. 2 (Jan. 1995): 270-92. [skim quickly]

* Landes, David S. “Why Europe and the West? Why Not China?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20, no. 2 (spring 2006): 3-22.

Week 3: Tuesday, 18 February, and Thursday, 20 February

4. Reform Period Overview

** QIAN Yingyi. “The Process of China’s Market Transition (1978-1998): The Evolutionary, Historical, and Comparative Perspectives.” *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 156, no. 1 (March 2000): 151-71. (In particular, sections 1-3, pp. 151-64.) Pre-publication version at <http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~yqian/research.html>

* Heilmann, Sebastian. “Policy Experimentation in China’s Economic Rise.” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43, no. 1 (March 2008): 1-26.

* Lin, Justin Yifu. “China’s Growth Miracle in the Context of Asian Transformation.” WIDER Working Paper 2018/92, August 2018. At

<https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/china%E2%80%99s-growth-miracle-context-asian-transformation>

LBTR 1 (Loren Brandt and Thomas G. Rawski, “China’s Great Economic Transformation,” pp. 1-26)

5. Economic Geography

** BN 2 “The Geographic Setting”

BN 6 “The Urban-Rural Divide and Chinese-style Urbanization”

AK 2 “Population, Geography, and History”

* Lampton, David M. “All (High-Speed Rail) Roads Lead to China.” Chapter 12 in Thomas Fingar and Jean C. Oi (eds.), *Fateful Decisions: Choices That Will Shape China’s Future*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020, pp. 287-311.

* LBTR 19 (Kam Wing Chan, J. Vernon Henderson, and Kai Yuen Tsui, “Spatial Dimensions of Chinese Economic Development,” pp. 776-828)

“China’s Population, Demographics, and Facts.” *South China Morning Post*. 14 May 2021.

<https://multimedia.scmp.com/infographics/news/china/article/3133145/china-2020-census/>

Donald, Stephanie Hemelryk and Robert Benewick. *The State of China Atlas: Mapping the World’s Fastest Growing Economy*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2005, pp. 24, 26f, 37, 40f., 42f, 50f, 72f, 74f, 77, 81, 89, 90f.

For large-scale maps on China’s economy see: *The National Economic Atlas of China*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 1994. Some pages of interest are pp. 2f., 8 top, 9 top, 11f., 15f., 19f., 21f., 32, 34, 36, 37, 43, 74f., 98, 195, 197, 199.

Week 4a: Tuesday, 25 February

Breathing space in case of time over-run on topics above. Otherwise topic TBA.

Week 4b: Thursday, 27 February, and

Week 5: Tuesday, 4 March, and Thursday 6 March

6. Central Planning and Economic Transition

6.1 The theory of centrally planned economies

** Greenwald, Douglas (ed.). “Input-Output Analysis.” In *The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Economics*. Second edition, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994; pp. 547-51.

* Kornai, Janos. “Resource-Constrained versus Demand-Constrained Systems.” *Econometrica* 47, no. 4 (July 1979): 801-19.

Kohler, Heinz. *Comparative Economic Systems*. Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman, and Company, 1989.

Chapter 6, “Centralized Socialism: A Model” (pp. 86-116, but skip pp. 95-99, 102-4, and 110-12; answers to questions are on pp. 494-501 (questions 1-6, 8 recommended)).

Take it easy on this reading. Try to understand what we do in class.

Chapter 12, “Market Capitalism: A Model” (pp. 332-61, except pp. 351-54 on Pareto conditions; answers to questions are on pp. 520-27 (questions 1, 3, 4, 7, 10 recommended; questions 2 and 8 very optional)).

6.2 The fatal conceit: the errors of socialism

** Hayek, Friedrich A. “The Use of Knowledge in Society.” *American Economic Review* 35, no. 4 (Sept. 1945): 519-30. (Also available in *The Essence of Hayek* [below])

Hayek, Friedrich A. *The Fatal Conceit: The Errors of Socialism*. London: Routledge, 1988.
The Collected works of F.A. Hayek, vol. 1. Chapter 4, “The Revolt of Instinct and Reason,” pp. 48-65, and Chapter 5, “The Fatal Conceit,” pp. 66-88.

Marquet, David. “Inno-Versity Presents: Greatness by David Marquet”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psAXMqxwol8>

6.3 Planning in China

** Melton, Oliver. “Understanding China’s Five Year Plan: Planned Economy or Coordinated Chaos.” *GaveKal Dragonomics China Insight: Economics*, 9 November 2010.

** Lyons, Thomas P. “Planning and Interprovincial Co-ordination in Maoist China.” *The China Quarterly* 121 (March 1990): 36-60.

* Heilmann, Sebastian, and Oliver Melton. “The Reinvention of Development Planning in China, 1993-2012.” *Modern China* 39, no. 6 (2013): 580-628.

Perkins, Dwight H. “Plans and Their Implementation in the People’s Republic of China.” *American Economic Review* 63, no. 2 (May 1973): 224-31.

“The 13 WHAT – A Song About China’s 13th 5-Year Plan,” 2015, 3min. (Propaganda video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhLrHCKMqyM>

6.4 Transition in China

BN 5 “Market Transition: Strategy and Process”

** QIAN Yingyi. “How Reform Worked in China,” Chapter 11 in Dani Rodrik (ed.), *In Search of Prosperity: Analytic Narratives on Economic Growth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003, pp. 297-333.

* ZHANG Weiying. “The China Model View Is Factually False.” *Journal of Chinese Economic and Business Studies* 17, no. 3 (2019): 287-311.

Week 6: Tuesday, 11 March, and Thursday, 13 March

7. Economic Development

** Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books, 1999.
“Introduction,” pp. 3-11, and Chapter 2 “The Ends and the Means of Development,” pp. 35-53.

LBTR 2 (Alan Heston and Terry Sicular, “China and Development Economics,” pp. 27-67)

7.1 Pre-reform period economic development strategies

** MAO Zedong. “On the Ten Major Relationships.” 25 April 1956. At:
http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_51.htm

** Eckstein, Alexander. *China’s Economic Revolution*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1977. Chapter 2, “Development Strategies and Policies in Contemporary China,” pp. 31-65.

* YANG Kuisong. “Reconsidering the Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries.” *The China Quarterly*, no. 193 (March 2008): 102-21.

LI Changyu. “Mao’s “Killing Quotas.” *China Rights Forum*, No. 4 (2005): 41-44. At
https://www.hrchina.org/sites/default/files/PDFs/CRF.4.2005/CRF-2005-4_Quota.pdf
[Link not accessible, at least not from Hong Kong; on the wayback machine:
https://web.archive.org/web/20090729194758/http://www.hrchina.org/public/PDFs/CRF.4.2005/CRF-2005-4_Quota.pdf]

7.2 Reform period economic development strategies

BN 18 “Macroeconomic Policy: Instruments and Outcomes

AK 14 “Changing the Growth Model”

BN 6 “The Urban-Rural Divide and Chinese-style Urbanization” (Also with economic geography)

** LIN, Justin Yifu. “Development Strategy, Viability, and Economic Convergence.” *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 51, no. 2 (Jan. 2003): 277-308, in particular pp. 277-94.

or LIN, Justin Yifu, CAI Fang, and LI Zhou. *The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform*. Revised edition. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2003, Chapter 4, “The Comparative-advantage-following Strategy,” pp. 103-36.

** WANG Jian. “The Correct Strategy for Long-Term Economic Development—Concept of the Development Strategy of Joining the ‘Great International Cycle’.” *Chinese Economic Studies* 25, no. 1 (Fall 1991): 7-15.

* YU Hong. “Regional Development in China Under the “Dual-Circulation” Strategy: The Case of Guangdong-Hong Kong –Macau Greater Bay Area.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 32, no. 144 (18 May 2023), 22pp.

* Sonobe, Tetsushi, HU Dinghuan, and Keijiro Otsuka. “From Inferior to Superior Products: an Inquiry into the Wenzhou Model of Industrial Development in China.” *Journal of Comparative Economics* 32, no. 3 (September 2004): 542-63.

Bishop, Bill (Sinocism). “China’s Political Discourse November 2021: A New Resolution on History.” *China Media Project*, 30 December 2021. At: <https://sinocism.com/p/chinas-political-discourse-november>

Hirschman, Albert O. *The Strategy of Economic Development*. New Haven : Yale University Press, 1961. Chapter 4 “Unbalanced Growth: An Espousal,” pp. 62-75, and Chapter 5 “Investment Choices and Strategies,” pp. 76-97. Skip section with interest rate calculations in Chapter 5.

Holz, Carsten A. “The Unbalanced Growth Hypothesis and the Role of the State: the Case of China's State-owned Enterprises.” *Journal of Development Economics* 96, no. 2 (Nov. 2011): 220-38.

LBTR 17 (Loren Brandt, Chang-tai Hsieh, and Xiaodong Zhu, “Growth and Structural Transformation in China,” pp. 683-728)

Week 7: Tuesday, 18 March, and Thursday, 20 March

Specifically: Industrial Policy

(**) Holz, Carsten A. “PRC Industrial Policies Postdate Rather than Lead Economic Activity.” 22 June 2020. Chapter 8 in Erik Baark, Bert Hofman and Jiwei Qian (eds.), *Innovation and China’s Global Emergence*, Singapore: NUS Press, 2021.

** Naughton, Barry. “Grand Steerage.” Chapter 2 in Thomas Fingar and Jean C. Oi (eds.), *Fateful Decisions: Choices That Will Shape China’s Future*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020, pp. 51-81.

* WEI Yifan, Yuen Yuen Ang, and Nan JIA. “The Promise and Pitfalls of Government Guidance Funds in China.” *The China Quarterly*, no. 256 (December 2023): 939-59.

* PAN Fenghua, ZHANG Fangzhu, and WU Fulong. “State-led Financialization in China: The Case of the Government-guided Investment Fund.” *The China Quarterly*, no. 247 (September 2021): 749-72.

* LIU, Zongyuan Zoe. “China’s Real Economic Crisis: Why Beijing Won’t Give Up on a Failing Model.” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2024 (published 6 August 2024). At <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-real-economic-crisis-zongyuan-liu>

And Cheung, Tai Ming. “National Strategic Integration: How China Is Building Its Strategic Power.” *UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation and MERICS*, 26

October 2024, 10pp. At <https://ucigcc.org/publication/national-strategic-integration-how-china-is-building-its-strategic-power/>

Fuller, Douglas B. "China's Counter-Strategy to American Export Controls in Integrated Circuits." *China Leadership Monitor* 67 (Spring 2021), 15pp. At: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3798291

7.2.1 Economic development: industry

** BN 14 "Industry: Ownership and Corporate Governance" (Also with 'Governance' below)

** BN 15 "Technology and Industrial Policy" [skim]

AK 5 "Industry, Export, and Technology"

** McMahon, Dinny. *China's Great Wall of Debt: Shadow Banks, Ghost Cities, Massive Loans, and the End of the Chinese Miracle*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. Chapter 2, "The Zombie Accommodation."

* CHENG, Hong, Ruixue JIA, Dandan LI, and Hongbin LI. "The Rise of Robots in China." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33, no. 2 (Spring 2019): 71-88.

* Thun, Eric. "Industrial Policy, Chinese-Style: FDI, Regulation, and Dreams of National Champions in the Auto Sector." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 4 (2004): 453-89.

And Brandt, Loren, and Eric Thun. "The Fight for the Middle: Upgrading, Competition, and Industrial Development in China." *World Development* 38, no. 11 (November 2010): 1555-74.

* Brandt, Loren, Johannes Van Biesebroeck, and ZHANG Yifan. "Creative Accounting Or Creative Destruction? Firm-level Productivity Growth in Chinese Manufacturing." *Journal of Development Economics* 97, no. 2 (March 2012): 339-51.

Week 8a: Tuesday, 25 March

Exam 1

Week 8b: Thursday, 27 March

Film?

Week 9a/b: Spring break (Tuesday, 1 April, and Thursday, 3 April)

Week 9+: Tuesday, 8 April, and Thursday, 10 April

7.2.2 Economic development: agriculture

** BN 11 "Rural Organization"

** BN 12 "Agriculture: Technology, Production, and Policy"

** BN 13 "Rural Industrialization: From Township and Village Enterprises to Taobao Enterprises" [skim]

** AK 4 "Agriculture, Land, and the Rural Economy"

* HUANG Jikun, and Scott Rozelle. "China's 40 Years of Agricultural Development and Reform." Chapter 22 in Ross Garnaut, Ligang Song, and Cai Fang (eds.), *China's 40 Years of Reform and Development 1978-2018*, Acton ACT, Australia: Australian National University Press, 2018, pp. 487-506.

* Brandt, Loren, Susan H. Whiting, ZHANG Linxiu, and ZHANG Tonglong. "Changing Property-Rights Regimes: A Study of Rural Land Tenure in China." *The China Quarterly* 232 (December 2017): 1026-49.

- * Lingohr, Susanne. "Rural Households, Dragon Heads and Associations: a Case Study of Sweet Potato Processing in Sichuan Province." *The China Quarterly* 192 (Dec. 2007): 898-914.
- Crook, Frederick. "China's Current Household Contract System." *CPE Agriculture Report*, May-June 1989: 21-30, and July-August 1989: 27-33. Focus on pp. 26-30 in the May-June 1989 issue.
- NPR. "The Secret Document That Transformed China." 20 Jan. 2012. 7min.
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2012/01/20/145360447/the-secret-document-that-transformed-china>

7.2.3 Economic development: financial system

- ** BN 19 "Financial System"
- ** AK 9 "The Financial System"
- ** Holz, Carsten A. "The Changing Role of Money in China and Its Implications." *Comparative Economic Studies* 42, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 77-100. Skip Chart 1, go easy on Table 1, focus on concept of two circuits.
- * ZHU Xiaodong. "The Varying Shadow of China's Banking System." *Journal of Comparative Economics* 46, no. 1 (March 2021): 135-46.
- * Peresa, Irena, and Edouard Vidon. "'Bad Banks' with Chinese Characteristics: an Ongoing Transformation." *Journal of Contemporary China* 31, no. 133 (2022): 136-52.
- * ZHENG Liansheng and WANG Hongying. "Authority and Autonomy without Independence: The Gradual Institutional Change of the Chinese Central Bank." *Journal of Contemporary China* 30, no. 129 (2021): 349-67.
- * Wright, Logan. "Grasping Shadows: The Politics of China's Deleveraging Campaign." *Center for Strategic & International Studies*, April 2023, 101pp. (select one chapter).
- Holz, Carsten A. "China's Monetary Reform: The Counterrevolution from the Countryside." *Journal of Contemporary China* 10, no. 27 (2001): 189-217.

Week 10a: Tuesday, 15 April

7.2.4 Economic development: fiscal system

- ** BN 20 "The Fiscal System"
- ** AK 8 "The Government Finance System"
- ** Borst, Nicholas. "China's Balance Sheet Challenge." *China Leadership Monitor*, no. 75 (Spring 2023, 1 March 2023), 21pp. At: <https://www.prclleader.org/post/china-s-balance-sheet-challenge>
- ** Wright, Logan, and Allen Feng. "Local Debt: Pathways to Contagion." Rhodium Group, China Markets Research, 14 August 2023.
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7.3 Regional economic development: China’s Western region

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Week 10b: Thursday, 17 April
Film

8. Economic Decision Making

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*Week 11a: Tuesday, 22 April
Film?*

Week 11b: Thursday, 24 April

9. Governance and Ownership Issues

- ** BN 14 “Industry: Ownership and Corporate Governance” (Also with Industry development ** above)
- ** AK 7 “The Enterprise System”
- ** Hawes, Colin S. C. *The Chinese Corporate Ecosystem*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2022. Chapter 1, “Why Is Huawei So Strange? Chinese Private Firms and Stakeholder Committees,” pp. 17-48. [Library eBook, on reserve]
- ** “China’s State vs. Private Company Tracker.” *Peterson Institute for International Economics*. At: <https://www.piie.com/research/special-projects/chinas-state-vs-private-company-tracker> [copy link; sources has semi-annual reports with different titles each]
- * Lin, Lauren Yu-Hsin, and Curtis J. Milhaupt. “China’s Corporate Social Credit System: The Dawn of Surveillance State Capitalism?” *The China Quarterly*, no. 256 (December 2023): 835-53.
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Week 12a: Tuesday, 29 April

10. China and the World

- ** BN 16 “International Trade”
- ** BN 17 “Foreign Investment and the Capital Account”
- ** AK 15 “China and the World: Is Conflict Inevitable?”
- (**) ZENG Ming, and Peter J. Williamson. “The Hidden Dragons.” *Harvard Business Review* 81, no. 10 (October 2003): 92-99. Updated as “The Global Impact of China’s Emerging Multinationals,” Chapter 5 in Christopher A. McNally (ed.), *China’s Emergent Political Economy: Capitalism in the Dragon’s Lair*. New York: Routledge, 2008, pp. 83-101.
- * Dunne, Michael. “China Is Done with Global Automakers: “Thanks for Coming.”” *The Dunne Insights Newsletter*, August 2024. At <https://newsletter.dunneinsights.com/p/china-is-done-with-global-carmakers>
- And LIU, Zongyuan Zoe. “China’s Real Economic Crisis: Why Beijing Won’t Give Up on a Failing Model.” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2024 (published 6 August 2024). At <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-real-economic-crisis-zongyuan-liu>
- * HU Zhi-Hua, LIU Chan-Juan, and Paul Tae-Woo Lee. “China’s Global Investment and Maritime Flows in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 30, no. 129 (2021): 465-80.
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CCP control/influence over governments, firms, and individuals in the West

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Week 12b: Public holiday (Thursday, 1 May)

Week 13a Tuesday, 6 May

11. Labor, Demographics, and Education

** BN 8 “Population: Demographic Transition, the Demographic Dividend, and the One-Child Policy”

** BN 9 “Labor and Human Capital”

** AK 11 “Demographics and the Labor Market”

* LI Hongbin, James Liang, Scott Rozelle, and WU Binzhen. “Human Capital and China’s Future.” Chapter 8 in Thomas Fingar and Jean C. Oi (eds.), *Fateful Decisions: Choices That Will Shape China’s Future*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020, pp. 200-21.

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- * DONG Xiaoyuan and AN Xinli. “Gender Patterns and Value of Unpaid Care Work: Findings from China's First Large-Scale Time Use Survey.” *Review of Income and Wealth* 61, no. 3 (September 2015): 540-560.
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- China Labor Watch: <http://www.chinalaborwatch.org/>
- China Labor News Translations: <http://www.cntranslations.org/>

12. *Sociology of China Research*

- ** Link, Perry. “The Anaconda in the Chandelier: Chinese Censorship Today.” Mimeo, 2002, At <http://www.chinafile.com/library/nyrb-china-archive/china-anaconda-chandelier>. (Also published in short version, with different ending, as “The Anaconda in the Chandelier: Censorship in China Today,” in Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Asia Program Special Report, April 2002, pp. 3-7.)
- ** Holz, Carsten A. “Have China Scholars All Been Bought?” *Far Eastern Economic Review* 170, no. 3 (April 2007), 36-40. At: <http://ihome.ust.hk/%7Esocholz/HaveChinaScholarsAllBeenBought-FEER30April07.pdf>
- ** Kornai, Janos. “Frankenstein’s Moral Responsibility.” *Acta Oeconomica* 69, no. 4 (2019): 485-94.
- * Perry, Elizabeth J. “Educated Acquiescence: How Academia Sustains Authoritarianism in China.” *Theory and Society*, no. 49 (2000): 1-22.
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- * Tenzin, Jinba. “The Ecology of Chinese Academia: A Third-Eye Perspective.” *The China Quarterly* 231 (September 2017): 775-96.
- * Shambaugh, David. “The Evolution of American Contemporary China Studies: Coming Full Circle?” *Journal of Contemporary China* 33, no. 146 (2024 [27 July 2023]), 18pp.
- * Barmé, Geremie R. “In a Retro Mood: The Ethical Dilemmas of Cutting a Deal with Xi Jinping’s China.” *The China Project*, Politics & Current Affairs, 15 September 2023. At: <https://thechinaproject.com/2023/09/15/in-a-retro-mood-the-ethical-dilemmas-of-cutting-a-deal-with-xi-jinpings-china/>
- And “Ethical Dilemmas of the China Scholar: A Conversation about Staying Engaged, Managing Risk, and Speaking the Truth. *USALI* [U.S.-Asia Law Institute] *Perspectives* 1, no. 19 (8 April 2021), 18pp. Available at: <https://usali.org/usali-perspectives-blog/ethical-dilemmas-of-the-china-scholar>
- And Stoff, Jeffrey, and Glenn Tiffert. “Eyes Wide Open: Ethical Risks in Research Collaboration with China.” *Hoover Institution Report*, December 2021 (short blog entry). At <https://www.hoover.org/press-releases/eyes-wide-open-ethical-risks-research-collaboration-china>
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- Friedman, Edward. "Studying China Is Dangerous." Keynote address, American Association for Chinese Studies, 49th Annual Conference, Richmond, Virginia, 6 October 2007. At <https://aacs.cuny.cuny.edu/2007conference/Edward-Friedman-Studying-China-is-Dangerous-KEYNOTE-SPEECH.doc>
- Wasserstrom, Jeffrey. "Why Aren't You Banned Yet?" 16 Dec. 2015. At <http://blog.lareviewofbooks.org/provocations/arent-banned-yet/>
- CHEN, Minglu, and David S.G. Goodman, "The China Model: One Country, Six Authors," *Journal of Contemporary China* 21, no. 73 (Jan. 2012): 169-185, in particular pp. 177-80 (Zhao Suisheng and Barry Naughton).
- XU Zhangrun. "A Letter to My Editors and to China's Censors." *ChinaFile* 18 May 2021. At <https://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/viewpoint/letter-my-editors-and-chinas-censors>

Week 13b Thursday, 8 May

Exam 2

More topics, for which we won't have time.

13. Corruption

- AK 13: "The Social Compact" (also below, twice)
- * Wedeman, Andrew. "Anticorruption Forever?" Chapter 3 in Thomas Fingar and Jean C. Oi (eds.), *Fateful Decisions: Choices That Will Shape China's Future*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020, pp. 82-106.
 - * WANG Junyang. "The Political Limits of China's Anti-Corruption Reform: An Institutional Analysis of the New Supervision Commission." *Journal of Contemporary China* 32, no. 144 (29 November 2022), 23pp.
 - * Greitens, Sheena Chestnut. "The *Saohai* Campaign, Protection Umbrellas, and China's Changing Political-Legal Apparatus." *China Leadership Monitor* 65 (Fall 2020), 1 September 2020. At: <https://www.prcleader.org/greitens-1>
 - And Carothers, Christopher. "Xi's Anti-Corruption Campaign: An All-Purpose Governing Tool." *China Leadership Monitor* 67 (Spring 2021), 17pp. At: <https://www.prcleader.org/carothers>
 - * FANG Hanming. "Measurements, Determinants and Causes of Corruption: Lessons from China's Anti-Corruption Campaign." *NBER working paper series* 31276 (May 2023).
 - * CHEN Ting, and James Kai-Sing Kung. "Busting the "Princelings": The Campaign Against Corruption in China's Primary Land Market." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134, no. 1 (2019): 185-226.
- Critique: Wiebe, Michael. "Replicating the Literature on Meritocratic Promotion in China." (4 February 2021) At: <https://michaelwiebe.com/blog/2021/02/replications>

LU Xiaobo. *Cadres and Corruption: The Organizational Involvement of the Chinese Communist Party*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2000.

Interactive website on corruption in China:

<http://www.chinafile.com/infographics/visualizing-chinas-anti-corruption-campaign>

14. Inequality and Poverty

BN 10 “Living Standards: Incomes, Inequality, and Poverty”

AK 13: “The Social Compact” (also above and below)

- * ZHAO Simon Xiao Bin, David Wai Ho Wong, SHAO Chen Han, and LIU Kai Ming. “Rising Income and Wealth Inequality in China: Empirical Assessments and Theoretical Reflections.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 32, no. 144 (26 January 2023), 17pp. And Peschel, Dominik. “Reducing Inequality in the People’s Republic of China through Tax and Fiscal Reforms.” *ADB East Asia Working Paper Series*, no. 46 (December 2021). At: <https://www.adb.org/publications/reducing-inequality-prc-tax-fiscal-reforms>
- * Bikales, Bill. “Reflections on Poverty Reduction in China.” Mimeo. Embassy of Switzerland in China, June 2021. At: https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/countries/countries-content/china/en/20210608-Poverty-Reduction-China_EN.pdf And LUO Chuliang, SHI Li, and Terry Sicular. “The Long-term Evolution of Income Inequality and Poverty in China.” WIDER Working Paper 2018/153, December 2018. At: <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/long-term-evolution-income-inequality-and-poverty-china>
- * Piketty, Thomas, YANG Li, and Gabriel Zucman. “Capital Accumulation, Private Property, and Rising Inequality in China, 1978-2015.” *American Economic Review* 109, no. 7 (2019): 2469-2496.

15. Social Security System

BN 10 “Living Standards: Incomes, Inequality, and Poverty”

AK 13: “The Social Compact”

- * FANG Hanming, FENG Jin. “The Chinese Pension System.” NBER Working Paper Series, Working Paper 25088, September 2018. At: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w25088>
- * YANG Li. “Towards Equity and Sustainability? China’s Pension System Reform Moves Center Stage.” HAL archives-ouvertes (3 May 2021), 22pp. At: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3879895 And Choi, Eun Kyong. “‘Delegation and Then Intervention’: The 2009 Decision to Create the New Rural Pension.” *The China Quarterly* 233 (March 2018): 64-84.

Data Sources and Additional Readings on China's Economy

PRC data

2024 中国统计年鉴 (China Statistical Yearbook [bilingual edition]). 北京: 中国统计出版社 (HA4631.C47 / search title for online version at HKUST library). Also available online at the National Bureau of Statistics website.

National Bureau of Statistics of China: <http://www.stats.gov.cn>

CEIC China Premium Database (at HKUST subsumed under CDMNext)

Michigan data center <http://chinadatabase.org/newcdc/>

Data journals: China Monthly Statistics (National Bureau of Statistics), People's Bank of China Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

Other, general sources of information on China

An increasing number of websites report regularly on China. Apart from the usual news outlets (such as the BBC or the Financial Times), the following provide somewhat specialized news and analysis:

MERICs (<http://merics.org>). A wide variety of publications, from biweekly news updates to in-depth reports. Individual European countries' relations with China (updated regularly): <https://www.merics.org/en/profiling-relations-european-countries-china>

China Leadership Monitor (analyses by typically academics, published three times a year, each issue with about four to five articles). Since 2018: <https://www.prcleader.org/>
Until 2018: <https://www.hoover.org/publications/china-leadership-monitor>

ChinaFile. <https://www.chinafile.com/>

China Infobank (online database, in Chinese): 中國資訊行 [HKUST discontinued subscription]

The Wire China <https://www.thewirechina.com/>

China Media Project <https://chinamediaproject.org/> (originally launched at the University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Media Studies Centre, now based in the U.S.)

China Digital Times <https://chinadigitaltimes.net/> ("independent, bilingual media organization that brings uncensored news and online voices from China to the world")

China Unofficial Archives <https://minjian-danganguan.org/> "This site is dedicated to making accessible the key documents, movies, blogs, and publications of a movement of Chinese people seeking to reclaim their country's history."

(Mostly) For fee:

Sinocism: <https://sinocism.com/> ; near-daily summaries and commentary on daily events related to China, by Bill Bishop

Rhodium Group: <https://rhg.com/research-topic/china/>; strong on FDI flows and on current economic topics; has regular reports such as 'Dashboard' and 'Pathfinder.'

China Macro Group: <https://www.chinamacro.ch/>

Hoover Institution, Stanford University: weekly, emailed updates typically focused on current political and political-economic matters: <https://www.hoover.org/publications/china-global-sharp-power-weekly-alert>

Politico China Watcher "What's next in U.S.-China relations" (weekly newsletter / email): <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-china-watcher>

European Union Chamber of Commerce in China. Numerous publications, including an annual summary publication, publications on special topics, and publications evaluating the business climate in the PRC for European firms:

<https://www.eurochamber.com.cn/en/eurochamber-publications>

AIDDATA (Research Lab at William & Mary). Includes "China's Global Public Diplomacy Dashboard" and policy briefs/reports/books on aspects of the PRC's worldwide influence <https://www.aiddata.org/>.

International Monetary Fund. The International Monetary Fund publishes an annual report with its recommendations for the PRC government, including the government's response to the recommendations. The report typically covers the issues of the previous years and how they have been addressed, and current issues (forward looking).

<https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/CHN>

Asian Development Bank --- has a chapter on China in its annual *Asian Development Outlook* and also has China-specific reports: <https://www.adb.org/countries/prc/main>

World Bank on China <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/china>

OECD Economic Surveys: China. The OECD typically conducts a survey every two years.

The executive summary tends to be available online. At: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-surveys-china_20725027

The Economist Intelligence Unit (search "EIU Country Intelligence" as word/phrase in library catalog; explore, for example, the country report on China)

Among various other institutions that provide relatively up-to-date information on the

Chinese economy are <http://chinadashboard.asiasociety.org/> and

<https://macropolo.org/reformpedia/policy-library/>.

Human rights:

Safeguard Defenders: <https://safeguarddefenders.com/en>

Duihua Foundation: <https://duihua.org>

Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/east-asia/china/>

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/asia/china-and-tibet>

Freedom House China Dissent Monitor: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/china-dissent-monitor>

Doublethink Lab: <https://doublethinklab.org/>

Labor issues:

China Labour Bulletin: <http://www.clb.org.hk/>

China Labor Watch: <http://www.chinalaborwatch.org/>

China Labor News Translations: <http://www.clntranslations.org/>

Chinese terminology:

Decoding China Dictionary <https://decodingchina.eu/> Explanation of in the PRC commonly used economic/social/political terms. (By the China Media Project, Heidelberg University, and the Swedish Center for China Studies.)

IPAC China Lexicon. <https://ipac.global/ipac-china-lexicon/> Meaning of key PRC/CCP concepts and initiatives. (By the European Union's Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China.)

Orlik, Tom. *Understanding China's Economic Indicators: Translating the Data into Investment Opportunities*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: FT Press Science, 2012.

Fravel, M. Taylor. "Online and on China: Research Sources in the Information Age." *The China Quarterly* 163 (Sept. 2000): 821-42. (Journal article introducing and discussing websites.)

Lynn White's China bibliography: list of books on China, by topic (most recent one of Winter 2007-2008): <http://www.princeton.edu/~lynn/chinabib.pdf>

Recent books about the PRC economy and society

LIU, Zongyuan Zoe. *Sovereign Funds: How the Communist Party of China Finances Its Global Ambitions*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2023.

HUANG, Yasheng. *The Rise and Fall of the East: How Exams, Autocracy, Stability and Technology Brought China Success, and Why They Might Lead to Its Decline*. Yale: Yale University Press, 2023.

- Hamilton, Clive, and Mareike Ohlberg. *Hidden Hand: How the Chinese Communist Party Is Reshaping the World*. Oneworld Publications, 2021.
- Shum, Desmond. *Red Roulette: An Insider's Story of Wealth, Power, Corruption, and Vengeance in Today's China*. Scribner, 2021.
- Walter, Carl E. *The Red Dream: The Chinese Communist Party and the Financial Deterioration of China*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2022.
- Strittmatter, Kai. *We Have Been Harmonized: Life in China's Surveillance State*. Harper Collins / Custom House, 2020.
- Sheridan, Michael. *The Red Emperor: Xi Jinping and His New China*. Headline Publishing Group, 2024.
- Rudd, Kevin. *On Xi Jinping: How Xi's Marxist Nationalism is Shaping China and the World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024.

Consider the following books for non-academic bedtime reading.

All four books are available in (cheap) paperback editions. You may learn more about China from one of these books than from a thousand pages of academic papers.

- Chang, Jung. *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*. New York: Anchor Books, 1992, or any other edition. China through the eyes of three generations of a family; covers just about all the main historical/political/economic events, from a personal, every-day life perspective. Also in Chinese: 鴻：三代中國女人的故事 / 張戎著；張樸譯. 香港：天地圖書有限公司, 2004.
- Johnson, Ian. *Wild Grass: China's Revolution from Below*. London: Penguin, 2004, or any other edition. (Also as: *Wild Grass: Three Stories of Change in Modern China*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2004.) Three stories of what it's like to be (mainland) Chinese and live in China today, from the point of view of a foreign journalist.
- Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, [1990?] 1974. Candid depiction of Communist revolution and dictatorship. Short. Not China-specific.
- Rand, Ayn. *Atlas Shrugged*. New York: Dutton, 1992, or any other edition. Fictional account of the U.S. turning Communist; market economics packaged as fiction. Do not start reading this book before an exam. (You may not be able to stop reading, and it's long.) Also consider books by Peter Hessler (staff writer at *The New Yorker*). For example, *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.

Two books that are predominantly positive about Mao Zedong's rule.

- Hinton, William. *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997 (and other years). Also at: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb02390>.
- Snow, Edgar. *Red Star over China*. New York: Random House, 1938 (and other publishers).

Films

- “Morning Sun.” Carma Hinton. – Documentary on the “Cultural Revolution.” 117min
- “The Gate of Heavenly Peace.” Carma Hinton. – Documentary on the 1989 massacre. 189min
- “China: A Century of Revolution: The Mao Years 1949-1976.” – Documentary produced at a time when the full extent of brutality during the various periods covered in the film was not yet known. 114min. At <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsh2FHq0tUA>

An eight-part **podcast** series on Xi Jinping: <https://www.economist.com/theprincepod>

Interpretative précis and presentation to the class

Length: 1 page (500 words) or less is best, absolute maximum 2 pages.

Font size 12 point (if Times New Roman), 1 inch margins; single line spacing, no right-adjust

Obtain the text of your chosen (and approved) précis now. If it is not available on Canvas or online, let the instructor know.

Submit your précis in ‘Discussions’ on Canvas (copy/paste, or pdf) 24+ hours before class.

Subject line: “Précis PresentationDate ArticleAuthor BriefArticleTitle ByMyName”.

Ideally, a précis does three things:

- (0) Provide full bibliographic information of the text on which your précis is based.
Add your name, your student ID, the date when you present, and the course number/title.
- (1) It presents the key arguments of the text.
May start with a 1-3 sentence statement of what the text is about, followed by a summary of the arguments.
If a causal argument is involved, pay special attention to how the causality is argued for (“identification strategy”). If an empirical argument is involved, pay special attention to the dataset used and to the empirical testing.
What’s the finding?
Why care about the paper? Important finding... contribution to the literature. (new idea, better data, better identification strategy / causal test, contradictory findings, etc.)
- (2) It provides a critique of these arguments. (For example: Quality of data, idea, contribution. Quality of descriptive or causal argument. Plausibility.) It can suggest how to improve the argument, or it can suggest additional / new research starting from the text. (For example: more robustness checks, specific additional data, alternative identification strategies, additional/other variables. Suggestions must be realistic.) Also see the research paper evaluation criteria (below) to see what you can look out for in your critique.
- (3) It (re-)states the (maximum three) points from this paper (or your critique) that your audience should definitely remember.

A précis is *not* a summary of the text. Pick the most interesting part of the article and explain it to your grandparents. (Skip anything technical.)

In your presentation to the class, (a) you can but need not use powerpoint; (b) speak freely (you must not read out your presentation); and (c) tell a good story and/or structure your presentation to get the main points across.

If you use powerpoint slides, you can, for example, use one slide for each item (0) – (3) above. Limit text on slides to a few key words/sentences. If the paper has charts/tables and you find them useful for the presentation, then those will take up additional slides.

A well written précis has the following characteristics: it’s short, well structured, uses precise language in clear and easily understandable sentences, presents the key facts/arguments of the article and does not try to summarize everything, ends with a brief ‘criticism’ to the extent possible, has takeaways that are understandable on first reading, may include a couple of examples to illustrate some points, may relate the material to the current lectures in the course or to our current real-world experiences, and refrains from presenting the reviewer’s personal view except as relevant in the critique.

Research paper

Total length (excluding references, appendices, and footnotes/endnotes): 4,000-6,000 words.

The research paper may, but need not adhere to the following structure:

Title

The Question / argument

Precisely state the question / argument. Elaborate in a few additional sentences.

Past Research Relevant to This Question

Literature review.

My Contribution and My Hypothesis(es)/ Theory

State in how far what you want to do is different from the literature. If you are attempting a causal argument, clearly state your hypothesis(es)/ theory and/or the relationship between your hypothesis(es) and the established theory (or literature) in your field.

Research Design/ Data Collection Method

Describe and justify your choice of research design and data collection method (advantages/ disadvantages). “Data” can be numerical or non-numerical.

Data Analysis

- (i) Present the data (or mathematical model, if that’s what you do), numerical or non-numerical (information, facts).
- (ii) Analyze the data (qualitatively or quantitatively or both).
- (iii) State the findings (such as that a particular statistical test shows that something is significant or not).

Interpretation of the Findings

Relate the findings to your research question. What do they “mean” for your research question? (This section can be very short, or can be the last paragraph of your data analysis section.)

Conclusions

Restate your question and state your answer to the question.

Feel free to also address the following issues: What are the implications of your research findings for theory, policy, or future research? If you originally stated a hypothesis and then found it confirmed, what evidence would you take as a sign that your hypothesis is false? Are there alternative explanations of a phenomenon you are explaining; if so, can you rule them out with your findings? What are the limitations of your study? Any suggestions for further research?

References (unless included in footnotes)

Adopt the formatting of references used in an academic journal of your choice.

Nail it down. Don’t resort to big (and all too often vacuous) generalizations. If you are a famous researcher, the reader will think that your generalizations are based on your intimate knowledge of the details. Unsubstantiated “big statements” from a junior person may not be so credible.

Keep it simple. Don’t try to do too much. Ask an interesting, straightforward question, and answer it.

If not obvious: All text that summarizes other literature must be properly referenced, and quotes must be explicit.

Make sure to include your name / student ID, the course code/title, and the date. Paginate (add page numbers in the footer). Use double-space or 1.75 line spacing, 1-inch margins, 12-point letter size, do not right-adjust. Submit electronically (only), via Canvas or email to the instructor.

If your research paper is an extensive literature review, it may well deviate from the above structure. You should try to give space to *your* contribution. This could be in many different forms, including a detailed discussion of problems of the literature and how these could be addressed, or your own thoughts and ideas about the topic as *not* covered in the literature, or your presentation of data (say, from the *China Statistical Yearbook*) to prove one or more arguments in the literature wrong.

Your research paper must be original work done for this course. It must not be on the same topic as any other past or concurrent work of yours in another course. It is OK to write several research papers in the same field (for different courses or publishing outlets), but there must be no major overlap between what you submit in this course and your other work. It is OK to build the research paper on your précis.

You may use generative Artificial Intelligence and must note how you have used it.

The writing assignment will receive a (potentially significantly) lower grade if it contains vague statements, assertions not backed up by evidence, or, in particular, falsehoods.

How your research paper is being evaluated

Your research paper must stay close within the word limit.

Three core criteria in the evaluation of the paper are:

- * Is the question clearly formulated?
- * Is your question original/ interesting/ non-trivial (and has not yet been answered)?
- * Is the question answered as unambiguously as possible/ is your argument compelling?

Further criteria in the evaluation of the paper, as relevant given your specific topic, are:

- * Does the literature review show that you are aware of the main literature relevant to your topic, that you have understood it, and that you can relate your own research to the body of existing literature?
- * Is the choice of data collection method justified, and is the method appropriate? (No 'overkill,' but appropriate.)
- * Is the data analysis logically consistent?
- * Is the conclusion clearly formulated? (Can an interested reader understand what you are doing just by reading the conclusion of your paper?)
- * English language: Fluency of the text, appropriateness of word choices, and correct grammar?

Penalties for late submission: To be determined.