

THE ECONOMICS OF CHINA
ECONOMICS EC2128A-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2020

General Information:

Instructor: Jafar El Armali
Office: Virtual, Online
Phone: 519-661-3500
E-mail: jelarmal@uwo.ca
Office hours: Thursdays 9 to 11 am. Office hours will be held online using Zoom.
I will post a weekly invitation on owl.
You can install/login to Zoom using your university account at:
<https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>

Delivery mode: Online Asynchronous.
This means that lectures will be uploaded on owl so that each student may go through lectures at his/her own time.

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note:

The **prerequisites** for this course are **Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B**, or **Economics 2001A/B**. The **anti-requisite** is **Economics 3311F/G**.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives:

The People's Republic of China has been a rising economic power for the past 2-3 decades. Today, it has become the largest or second largest economy in the world, depending on the measure being used. In this course, we will study about China's remarkable economic performance and place this performance in historical and comparative context. The course investigates topics related to China's economic history, transformation, structure, institutions, and public policy, in addition to current events and challenges.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn the main features of China's economy, economic performance, development, and challenges.
- Students will gain experience using economic models and methods through their application in the analysis of China's economy.
- Students will learn how to search for, read, interpret and evaluate data and research published on the Chinese economy.
- Students will get a glimpse at the concepts of Socialism and State Capitalism.

Textbook and Readings:

Readings will mainly (but not only) be chapters from the following textbook: ***The Chinese Economy: Adaptation and Growth (SECOND EDITION, 2018)*** by **Barry Naughton**. This is referred to as Naughton in the reading list below. Online (e-text) version of the textbook may be obtained from the publisher:

<https://mitpress.ubliish.com/book/the-chinese-economy>

Hard copies of the textbook may be ordered through the UWO bookstore.

Other items in the reading list may be accessed online through Western Libraries website:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/>

Each week, we will cover 1-2 chapters or one chapter and one paper from the required readings below. In addition, I will be posting optional readings on the topics listed below. Optional readings are recommended but not required.

Topics Covered and Required Readings:

A. Introduction:

- 1) "Introduction: The Chinese Economy in Context", Ch.1 in Naughton
- 2) "The Geographic Setting", Ch.2 in Naughton

B. A little bit of History:

- 1) "The Chinese Economy Before 1949", Ch.3 in Naughton
- 2) "The Socialist Era, 1949-1978...", Ch.4 in Naughton

C. Transformation:

- 1) "Market Transition: Strategy and Process", Ch.5 in Naughton
- 2) Naughton, B. (2017). Is China Socialist?. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(1), 3-24.

D. Data and Performance:

- 1) Holz, C. A. (2014). The quality of China's GDP statistics. *China Economic Review*, 30, 309-338.
- 2) "Growth and Structural Change", Ch.7 in Naughton

E. State Capitalism and the “East Asian Development Model”:

- 1) "State Capitalism and the Chinese Economic Miracle", pages 1 to 21 in Naughton, B., & Tsai, K. S. (Eds.). (2015). *State capitalism, institutional adaptation, and the Chinese miracle*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2) "Did China Follow the East Asian Development Model?", pages 240 to 262 in Naughton, B., & Tsai, K. S. (Eds.). (2015). *State capitalism, institutional adaptation, and the Chinese miracle*. Cambridge University Press

F. Technology:

- 1) "Technology and Industrial Policy", Ch.15 in Naughton

G. International Aspects:

- 1) "International Trade", Ch.16 in Naughton
- 2) "Foreign Investment and the Capital Account", Ch.17 in Naughton

H. Macroeconomic and Financial Aspects:

- 1) "Macroeconomic Policy...", Ch.18 in Naughton
- 2) "Financial System", Ch.19 in Naughton
- 3) "Four Decades of Financial Reform in China", by HE Liping
<http://journal.hep.com.cn/cet/EN/article/downloadArticleFile.do?attachType=PDF&id=27148&1598876470841>

I. Inequality and Poverty:

- 1) "Living Standards: Incomes, Inequality, and Poverty", Ch.10 in Naughton
- 2) Piketty, T., Yang, L., & Zucman, G. (2019). Capital accumulation, private property, and rising inequality in China, 1978–2015. *American Economic Review*, 109(7), 2469-96.
- 3) Francisco Ferreira, "In Defense of the Gini Coefficient," World Bank Blog Let's Talk Development, Feb. 19, 2020.
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/defense-gini-coefficient>

J. Urban-Rural Divide:

- 1) "The Urban-Rural Divide and Chinese-style Urbanization", Ch.6 in Naughton

K. Population:

- 1) "Population...", Ch.8 in Naughton

L. A Peek into the Future:

- 1) "Environmental Quality and the Sustainability of Growth", Ch. 21 in Naughton
- 2) Lau, L. J. (2019). The sky is not falling!. *Economic and Political Studies*, 7(2), 122-147.

Assessments and Grading:

The course grade will be based on quizzes, a midterm exam and a final exam. Questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions.

There will be 4 quizzes in total. The best 3 quizzes will enter your course grade calculation, each worth 5%. Quizzes will be done on owl **asynchronously** on the specified dates below. This means that each quiz will be available on owl for the full day, and you can do it at any time during the day. Once you open the quiz though, you will have 15-20 minutes to do it.

The midterm and final exams will be done on owl **synchronously**. This means that all students must write the exam at the same time and date.

The times and dates of quizzes and exams will be scheduled by The Registrar's Office and will be communicated to the students during the semester. The dates below are tentative to give you an approximate idea on when to expect quizzes and exams and to plan accordingly.

The table below shows the weight, length, **tentative date** and topics covered for each quiz/exam.

	Weight	Location	Length	Tentative Dates	Topics Covered*
Quiz 1	0-5%	OWL	15-20 minutes	Mon. September 28, 2020	A, B, C
Quiz 2	0-5%	OWL	15-20 minutes	Tues. October 13, 2020	D, E
Mid Term	35%	OWL	1.5 hours	Fri. October 30, 2020	A to G
Quiz 3	0-5%	OWL	15-20 minutes	Mon. November 16, 2020	H, I
Quiz 4	0-5%	OWL	15-20 minutes	Mon. November 30, 2020	J, K
Final	50%	OWL	2 hours	TBA	Comprehensive

* The letters refer to the "Topics Covered and Required Readings" section.

- Please note the following:
 - Quizzes and exams must be done individually. During quizzes and exams students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor.
 - Quizzes and exams are closed book assessments. Students are forbidden from using any books, notes, study guides, diagrams, communication equipment such as a cell phone, computer programs or software, online resources or websites, or other aids unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
 - If a single quiz is missed for any reason, then it will be dropped, and the remaining 3 quizzes will enter your course grade calculation as mentioned.
 - If more than one quiz is missed and if the additional absence has officially received approval such as an SRA or from Academic Counselling (see 'Please Note' below), then the marks from the extra missed quiz (or quizzes) will be redistributed to the rest of the assessments.
 - If the midterm or final exam is missed and if the absence has received official approval from Academic Counselling (see 'Please Note' below), then a make-up exam will be offered.

Otherwise, no make-up will be offered and the student will receive a zero on the missed midterm or final exam.

- If the make-up exam assessment is missed, and if the absence has received official approval from Academic Counselling (see 'Please Note' below), then the marks from the missed exam will be redistributed to the rest of the assessments.

Communication:

- It is **very important to read OWL announcements**, as information and updates will be communicated mainly through this tool.
- Emails will be monitored regularly; students will usually receive a response in 0 – 72 hrs.
- You can also use OWL forum for questions and discussions.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

- Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
- Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course.
- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
- **Please ask questions.** If you have questions or are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor.

Technical Requirements

You will need to have access to at least one of the following: a laptop, a tablet, a smartphone, or a computer. In addition, an internet connection is needed so that you can access lectures and other course materials on owl, communicate with the instructor, and do quizzes & exams online.

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a first term half course:
Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Thursday September 17, 2020
Thursday November 12, 2020

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#).

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.