East Asian Economic Development

SOSC 3410
Spring, 2016
WeFr 01:30PM - 02:50PM
Rm 6591, Lift 31-32

Instructor: Jean (Ji Yeon) HONG
Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science, HKUST
jyhong@ust.hk
http://hongjiyeon.com
Office hours: Tuesday 10:00am-11:30pm (Rm 2349 via Lift 3, 13-15)

TA: Wenhui Yang
MPhil Student, Division of Social Science, HKUST
wyangai@connect.ust.hk

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a comparative political economy course focusing on issues related to East Asian economic development. This course targets toward advanced undergraduate students. Main purpose of this course is to explore the political, cultural and historical aspects behind the rapid economic growth in the past decades in the region. This course will also examine the challenges that the East Asian Economies, especially the Chinese economy, are facing and tries to help students to have a better understanding of the political economy of East Asia. In other words, the course will be about the economic success of the region. However, our discussion will not be limited by the story of success. We will discuss much about what is left or hidden behind the East Asian economic success and what politics and society can do about the failure and challenges.

The course consists of four sections related to political economy of East Asian economic development. Each topic is broad and complex. Due to time constraints, we will focus on several key subtopics in each section. First, we will discuss the basic logic and methodologies of social science. Second, the course will cover basic theories of economic development. We will then survey the literature on so called East Asian model of economic growth. The model ranges widely from government control over the economy to political economic connections and corruption. In the final section, the class will focus on idiosyncrasy of each country. We will discuss five countries: Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and China.

GRADING

1. Case Presentation: 30% of the grade will be determined by contributions to in-class
presentation. The presentation should aim to provide interesting description and analytical perspectives to given topic. One team will consist of 3-5 people (depending on the enrollment size). Students will select three topics from the list and will be assigned to a final topic by the instructor. Individual team has the first meeting at 1:30pm on 19/02/2016 for the first time and submit a proposal at 11pm on the same day (via e-mail to TA and instructor). Presenters are required to prepare a proper presentation with slides, not exceeding 20 minutes (exceeding time may work negatively on grade). Presenters also need to be fully aware of what they present (No reading allowed when present). Final presentation slides should be sent to the instructor and TA 24 hours prior to the presentation. You are free to consult to the instructor or TA in the process of preparation. The team grade will be decided based on presentation materials and the actual presentation. To avoid free-riding, there will be an anonymous peer review among group members. Individual’s grade will be adjusted by the peer review.

2. **Mid-term examination**: Two mid-term exam will take 25% of the grade. They are scheduled on 08/04/2016. Mid-term exam will be a mixture of multiple choices, true or false, short answers, and short essays. You MUST sit these exams at the scheduled time. Two exceptions are family emergency and severe sickness. In any case, you must provide a doctor’s note. Upon a proper doctor’s notice and contact information, a make-up exam will be scheduled.

3. **Final paper**: 35% of the grade will be decided by individual final paper. Final topic and proposal is due 29/04/2016. The paper submission is due at 5pm on 20/05/2016 (via e-mail to TA and instructor). Detailed guideline will also be announced. Paper cannot exceed 2,000 words. Intellectual depth and innovativeness will be the major criteria for grading.

4. **Class attendance and participation**: 10% of the grade will depend on attendance and participation. Attendance check will be randomly conducted by a cold call. Be aware that cold call can be repeated. Active participants will be noticed and considered.

Failure to complete any of the tasks above (presentation, mid-term, final paper or attendance) may result in a failure grade for this course.

**TEXTBOOKS**


TOPICS & READINGS

I. Introductory Materials

Feb 3: Overview

*Essential Readings*

Easterly, Chapter 1

*Recommended Readings*


Feb. 5: Research Methods

*Essential Readings*


*Recommended Readings*


Feb. 12: Class cancelled

Make-up session will be provided as an individual consultation session.

II. Theoretical Discussions of Economic Development

Feb. 17: History

*Essential Readings*

Wan Chapter 3 and 4.
**Recommended Readings**

Cai Chapter 2.


**Feb. 19: Brainstorming and Presentation Proposal**

Presentation team will be organized on Feb. 19 once the enrollment is finalized. Meet with your team members during the lecture time and submit a 1 page proposal by 11:00pm via email. I will comment on each proposal. For brainstorming, there will be no lecture.

**Feb. 24, Feb. 26: Development Theory**

*Essential Readings*


*Recommended Readings*


Mar 2, Mar. 4: Regime Type and Economic Growth

Essential Readings


Recommended Readings


III. East Asian Model

Mar. 9: Economic Miracle in East Asia

Essential Readings


Recommended Readings


Mar. 11: Components of Miracle

Essential Readings
Rethinking, Chapter 1.


**Recommended Readings**


**Mar. 16: East Asian Model: Government/Bureaucracy**

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


**Mar. 18: East Asian Model: Industrial Policy**

**Essential Readings**

Wan Chapter 7.

**Recommended Readings**


Mar. 23: East Asian Model: Human Capital

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Mar. 30: East Asian Model: Limited Democracy and State-Business Connection

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Raymond Fisman and Yongxiang Wang. [“The Mortality Cost of Political Connections”](#)


Apr. 1, Apr. 6: Asian Economic Crisis

**Essential Readings**

Wan Chapter. 6

Rethinking Chapter. 13
**Recommended Readings**


**Apr. 8: First Mid-term**

- In-class exam in different classroom
- 80 minutes (early leave is allowed)
- Multiple choice, short answers (1-3 words), True or false, short essays

**IV. Countries**

**Apr. 13: Japan**

*Essential Readings*

Cai, Chapter 4.


*Recommended Readings*


**Apr. 15: South Korea**

*Essential Readings*

Cai Chapter 5.

Rethinking Chapter 9.

*Recommended Readings*

Apr. 20: Taiwan

**Essential Readings**

Cai Chapter 6.


**Recommended Readings**


Apr. 22: Hong Kong

**Essential Readings**


Johannes Chan. 2014. “Hong Kong’s Umbrella Revolution” Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs 103(6).

**Recommended Readings**


Apr. 27, Apr. 29: China

Apr. 29: Final paper topic and proposal due (1page)

**Essential Readings**

Cai Chapter 7.


**Recommended Readings**


May 4: North Korea

Essential Readings


Recommended Readings


May 6 12:00pm to 3pm: Individual Consultation for Final Paper

Discussion of final paper topics

May 20, 5:00PM: Final Paper Due

Significant deduction for late submission. See the paper guideline for details.

Presentation Subjects

1. Developmental Dictators in East Asia [March 2]
2. Developmental Dictators in East Asia [March 4]
3. Life of East Asian Students [March 23]
4. Anti-corruption Campaign [March 30]
5. Abenomics [April 13]
6. Will Chaebol die? [April 15]
7. Sunflower Movement and the 2016 Taiwanese Election [April 20]

8. Economic Relationship between China and Hong Kong [April 22]

9. Start-ups in Silicon Valley and China [April 27]