The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Economic Development in China

SOSC 5720: 3 Credits, Thursday 19:00 – 21:50 pm

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Office Hours: Thursday 12:00 – 13:00 (with appointments)

Course Description

This course focuses on economic reforms and development in China. We will study the pathology of Chinese economy, the largest developing economy in the world. In particular, we will try to explain what prevented China from economic development, why China's economic reform since 1978 created a rapid economic development and what the problems are in China's economic development. The course is a combination of solid analysis on Chinese institutions as well as comprehensive investigations on Chinese statistical data. Though we do use certain empirical papers as supporting evidence, this course does not place an emphasis on sheer statistical techniques. Nonetheless, basic knowledge in statistics or economics will benefit.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

ILO1. To introduce students to histories and theories of China's economic development

ILO2. To introduce students to research analysis and empirical works about China's economic development

ILO3. To familiarize students with modern statistical and econometric methods to investigate research topics (i.e., R/STATA is introduced in tutorials and used to do statistical work in lectures).

Assessment and Grading

- Class participation (10%)
- Two assignments (25%)
- Mid-term presentation (25%)
- Final presentation (20%)
- Final paper (20%)

Summary Table:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Mid-Term Presentation	25%	TBA
Assignment 1	12.5%	06/10/2025
Assignment 2	12.5%	10/11/2025
Final Presentation	20%	27/11/2025
Final Paper	20%	15/12/2025
Participation	10%	

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks and Task Explanations:

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Presentation	ILO1 ILO2	Lectures will be reserved for your presentation in class. Assign your presentation time using Canvas Page. We will take note of your presentation to give comments and give fair grades. **Evaluation**: - 5%, Clearly and independently present the work (do not read notes) - 5%, Management time (complete presentation within time) - 10%, Convey the insights of the paper well (story, method, results)
Assignment Referee Report	ILO1 ILO2	Choose **ONE paper** on the Canvas Page **"reading list"** and assign your name. The choice is exclusive. Please make your choice early. **Format: three-page** A4 size, 1-inch margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1.25 spaced **Structure**: - 2.5%, summarize the paper (research question, data, methods, and conclusion) - 5%, assessment and critique of evidence, data, and methods in the paper. - 5%, possible policy implications/extensions/follow-up studies.
Assignment Data Report	ILO2 ILO3	Choose **ONE data** on the Canvas Page **"data list"** and assign your name. The choice is exclusive. Please make your choice early. You can also search for data by yourself. The data can be used for final paper. Format: **5-10 pages** including graphs, figures, and references A4 size, 1-inch margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1.25 spaced, **Structure:** -2.5%, summarize data source and structure, including key variables, time horizon, geographic horizon, data source or collection methods. -5%, assessment of data quality (missing values, outlier, values of variables). summary statistics and interpretations of statistics. -5%, analysis and thoughts of the data, including trend, spatial distribution, frequency, variations. If you want to conduct basic regression and interpretation of the results, it also works.
Final Paper	ILO1 ILO2 ILO3	**Format**: No more than 30 pages including reference, tables and charts. A4 size, 1-inch margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1.25 spaced **Structure:** Abstract: (1 page, 100-150 words) summary of key points for non-expert Introduction: (2-3 pages) research question, research significance, summary of research methods and results Literature Review: (2-3 pages) a review of previous relevant research, justification of your contribution to literature Data: data collection process, variable of interest, summary statistics of data Method: data analysis, models, and quantitative methods Results: regression results, research output, intuitions of the results Reference: see https://libguides.ust.hk/basic-citation/how-to-cite GenAI memo

Grading Rubrics

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of econometric methods, expertise in problem-solving, and significant creativity in thinking. Exhibits a high capacity for data assessment, empirical analysis, presentation and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of the models and causal inference, competence in problem-solving, and the ability to analyze and evaluate issues. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of causal inference, competence in dealing with familiar problems, and some capacity for analysis and critical thinking. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.

Communication and Policy

- **Late delivery of due items will NOT be accepted**! Refer to notifications for changes in classes, or tasks.
- Students are advised to consult on the feasibility of their group project with TA. Feedback on group work will be provided (e.g., feasibility, strengths, areas for improvement) by the TA.
- Final Proposal Presentation comments will be released one week after submission of slides.
- Students seeking clarification or further feedback, including grading, should consult the instructor/teaching assistant within one week of receiving the grade.

Regrading Policy

If you want to ask for a reevaluation of your work, please submit your justifications in writing. We will reassess your entire work using the copies we saved for regrading. Your grade may end up lower after reassessment.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Reading List

Required reading list: a selection of articles will be uploaded to the canvas website each week along with discussion questions.

Data List

Required data list: a list of data will be sent to you upon request.

Additional Resources

Reading resources:

Reading Guide https://users.nber.org/~nikolovp/studentresources/reading_guide.pdf

A Review of the Literature: https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/literature-review.pdf

Writing resources:

Referee Report Template

https://www.dropbox.com/s/dr89fy985veoy6b/Referee%20Report_template.pdf?dl=0

How to Write an Effective Referee Report and Improve the Scientific Review Process

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4zr59etagqzy0k2/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Effective%20Referee%20Report.pdf?dl=0

Guidelines to Write a Referee Report

https://www.dropbox.com/s/nq1n2w3quvsbg8a/Guidelines%20to%20Write%20a%20Referee%20Report.pdf?dl=0

Research Paper Template (20-page)

https://www.dropbox.com/s/hlh11xoj0yfsdch/paper_structure.pdf?dl=0

Writing Tips for Economics Research Papers

https://www.dropbox.com/s/t92uzt2i54vo9q5/writingtips.pdf?dl=0

Programming Resources:

Download R https://www.r-project.org/

Download RStudio https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download

R manuals website http://cran.r-project.org/manuals.html

R packages website http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages

Basic R Tutorial https://data.princeton.edu/R