Spring 2024
SOSC 4260 China’s Economic Transformation [The Chinese Economy]
Tue/Thu 9:00-10:20am, CYTG009A

Instructor: Carsten A. HOLZ, socholz@ust.hk
Office hour: Tuesday 10:30-11:30, Room 2368
Instructional assistant: Stephen Chi Ho CHOY, choyho@ust.hk
Office hour: Wed 3-4pm, Rm 2359

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

Please read this syllabus before contacting the instructor or the instructional 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.

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
16% One 1-page (maximum 500 word) interpretative précis of a reading in the syllabus with a maximum 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 5. (Précis articles will be allocated in class, on 22 February.) — Team work of up to three students is welcome. — Also see details re précis towards the end of the syllabus.
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 (maximally 8 assignments count). — We may also have “10-minute” mini assignments, typically assigned Tuesday, due Thursday, not submitted, not graded.
34% Midterm exam 1, in class, closed book, Thursday 14 March
34% Midterm exam 2, in class, closed book, Tuesday, 7 May [2 May if we have to move it]
Optional term paper: If you wish to write a term paper (see details at end of syllabus), then the term paper will count 34% towards the final grade, and all requirements above will be re-weighted (each multiplied by 0.66). Submission deadline: 17 May 2024, 12 noon.
If you miss one of the two midterm exams and are excused (see below), you may substitute a term paper for the missed midterm exam.
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 a midterm exam, with valid excuse: In case of illness, a medically documented incapability of taking the exam at the scheduled time is required in order to be excused. Family emergencies require objective documentation. If you are excused from taking the midterm exam, you have the option of writing a term paper instead. Or the instructor may give you an oral test or a written make-up exam.

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

Course grade
The translation of an overall course percentage score into a letter grade is based on an absolute standard and the grading in similar courses in the past. The instructor may, in rare instances, make a one-third grade upward adjustment to a student’s course grade if a student’s performance in class is far superior to the performance in the requirements.

Miscellanea
There are no extra-credit assignments.
The exams cover material presented/discussed in class and the required readings.
What we do in class does 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:


A more focused book that we draw on (also available as eBook on reserve in the library) is:


General readings

The following volume provides a more research-oriented overview of the Chinese economy:


A wide variety of overview chapters (of varying quality) can be found in:


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


Background reading on Chinese (economic) history:


Overview (Table of Contents)

0. Introduction

1. Why Care about the Chinese Economy?

2. The Problem of Causality in the Social Sciences

3. Economic History
   3.1 The broad historical strokes
   3.2 Why did China not industrialize earlier?

4. Reform Period Overview

5. Economic Geography

6. Central Planning and Economic Transition
   6.1 The theory of centrally planned economies [6.2 The theory of market economies]
   6.3 The fatal conceit: the errors of socialism
   6.4 Planning in China
   6.5 Transition in China

7. Economic Development
   7.1 Pre-reform period economic development strategies
   7.2 Reform period economic development strategies incl. Specifically: Industrial Policy
       7.2.1 Economic development: industry
       7.2.2 Economic development: agriculture
       7.2.3 Economic development: financial system
       7.2.4 Economic development: fiscal system
       7.2.5 Energy    7.2.6 Environment    7.2.7 Digital economy
   7.3 Regional economic development: China’s Western region

8. Economic Decision Making

9. Governance and Ownership

10. China and the World

11. Labor, Demographics, and Education

12. Sociology of China Research
13. Corruption
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. 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. (Access “BN,” “AK,” and “Hawes” 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 1b: Thursday, 1 February
Week 2a: Tuesday, 6 February

0. Introduction
Syllabus

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”

2. The Problem of Causality in the Social Sciences


Week 2b: Thursday, 8 February
- - - Start thinking about your précis topic, to be determined on Thursday, 15 February - - -

3. The Pre-1978 Economy

3.1. The Broad Historical Strokes
BN 3 “The Chinese Economy Before 1949” [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).


Week 3a: Tuesday, 13 February, no class -- Chinese New Year

Week 3b: Thursday, 15 February – ‘blended learning’: ‘watch film on your own (class does not meet) and answer Assignment 2

[Add-Drop period runs through 16 February]

Week 4a and 4b: Tuesday and Thursday, 20 and 22 February

3.2 Why Did China Not Industrialize Earlier?


4. Reform Period Overview


5. Economic Geography

** BN 2 “The Geographic Setting”

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

AK 2 “Population, Geography, and History”


6. Central Planning and Economic Transition

6.1 The theory of centrally planned economies


6.2 The theory of market economies


6.3 The fatal conceit: the errors of socialism


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

6.4 Planning in China


Perkins, Dwight H. “Plans and Their Implementation in the People’s Republic of China.”

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

6.5 Transition in China

BN 5 “Market Transition: Strategy and Process”


**Week 7a: Tuesday, 12 March**

7. **Economic Development**


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

7.1 **Pre-reform period economic development strategies**


-------- **Week 7b: In-class first midterm exam, Thursday, 14 March --------**

**Week 8a: Tuesday, 19 March**

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)


Specifically: Industrial Policy


* KAJITANI, Kai, CHEN Kuang-hui, and Kohei MITSUNAMI. “How Do Industrial Guidance Funds Affect the Performance of Chinese Enterprises?” RIETI [The Research

Week 9a: Tuesday, 26 March: Film?

Week 9b: Thursday, 28 March: Midterm break
‘Week 9+a, 9+b:’ Tuesday and Thursday, 2 and 4 April: Midterm break

Week 10a: Tuesday, 9 April

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”

Week 10b: Thursday, 11 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 Scot Rozelle. “China’s 40 Years of Agricultural Development and Reform.” Chapter 22 in Ross Garnaut, Ligang Song, and Cai Fang (eds.), China’s 40


Week 11a: Tuesday, 16 April

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.


Week 11b: Tuesday, 18 April

7.2.4 Economic development: fiscal system
** BN 20 “The Fiscal System”
** AK 8 “The Government Finance System”


* Feng, Allen, and Logan Wright. “Tracking Credit Events at LGFVs.” Rhodium Group, China Markets Research, 26 September 2022.


7.2.5 Energy

* AK 10 “Energy and the Environment” (Also with 7.2.6)


* Brandt, Loren, and Thomas G. Rawski. Policy, Regulation and Innovation in China’s Electricity and Telecom Industries.” Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019. (Choose any one chapter of your liking.)


### 7.2.6 Environment

BN 21 “Environmental Quality and the Sustainability of Growth”

* AK 10 “Energy and the Environment” (Also with 7.2.5)

* Economy, Elizabeth. “China’s Climate Strategy.” *China Leadership Monitor* 68 (Summer 2021), 16pp. At: [https://www.prcleader.org/economy](https://www.prcleader.org/economy)


### 7.2.7 Digital economy

* All of the below are available for précis: Combine short ones or shorten long ones.


7.3 Regional economic development: China’s Western region

** AK 6 “Urbanization and Infrastructure”


Week 12a: Tuesday, 23 April

8. Economic Decision Making

** AK 3 “China’s Political Economy”


9. Governance and Ownership Issues

** BN 14 “Industry: Ownership and Corporate Governance” (Also with Industry development ** above)

** AK 7 “The Enterprise System”


** BN 16 “International Trade”

** BN 17 “Foreign Investment and the Capital Account”

** AK 15 “China and the World: Is Conflict Inevitable?”


10.1 The CCP’s control/influence over governments, firms, and individuals in the West


**10.2 System competition**


---------- Week 14a In-class second midterm exam, Tuesday, 7 May ----------

**Week 14b: Thursday, 9 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”
* 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.

China Labor Watch: http://www.chinalaborwatch.org/
China Labor News Translations: http://www.clntranslations.org/

12. Sociology of China Research
** 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/%7Eschoholz/HaveChinaScholarsAllBeenBought-FEER30April07.pdf


* Humphrey, Peter. “My Time in a Chinese Prison.” *Financial Times*, 16 February 2018. [https://www.ft.com/content/db8b9e36-1119-11e8-940e-08320fc2a277](https://www.ft.com/content/db8b9e36-1119-11e8-940e-08320fc2a277). Also 5-min video at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAVs3olQdo0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAVs3olQdo0)


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

13. Corruption

AK 13: “The Social Compact” (also below, twice)


* 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](https://www.prcleader.org/carothers)


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)


**15. Social Security System**

BN 10 “Living Standards: Incomes, Inequality, and Poverty”
AK 13: “The Social Compact”

* Stepan, Matthias, and Jane Duckett. “Serve the People: Innovation and IT in China’s Social Development Agenda.” *MERICS Papers on China*, No. 6 (October 2018).
Data Sources and Additional Readings on China’s Economy

**PRC data**
CEIC China Premium Database (at HKUST subsumed under CDMNext)

**News articles, laws and regulations, statistics, and more**
China Infobank (online database, in Chinese): [中國資訊行](http://www.stats.gov.cn)

**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](http://merics.org)). A wide variety of publications, from biweekly news updates to in-depth reports.
  Individual European countries’ relations with China (updated regularly):

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/](https://www.prcleader.org/)
  Until 2018: [https://www.hoover.org/publications/china-leadership-monitor](https://www.hoover.org/publications/china-leadership-monitor)

ChinaFile. [https://www.chinafile.com/](https://www.chinafile.com/)
The Wire China [https://www.thewirechina.com/](https://www.thewirechina.com/)
China Media Project [https://chinamediaproject.org/](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/](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/](https://minjian-danganguan.org/) 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
For fee:
  Sinocism: [https://sinocism.com/](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/](https://rhg.com/research-topic/china/) (mostly but not all for-fee); strong on FDI flows and on current economic topics; also has regular reports such as ‘Dashboard’ and ‘Pathfinder’
  China Macro Group: [https://www.chinamacro.ch/](https://www.chinamacro.ch/)
Weekly updates typically focused on current political and political-economic matters:
About half a dozen weekly China news updates/links compiled by the Hoover Institution, Stanford University: [https://www.hoover.org/publications/china-global-sharp-power-weekly-alert](https://www.hoover.org/publications/china-global-sharp-power-weekly-alert)
Político China Watcher “What’s next in U.S.-China relations” (weekly newsletter): [https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-china-watcher](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:
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).

Asian Development Bank --- has a chapter on China in its annual Asian Development Outlook and also has other, China-specific reports: [https://www.adb.org/countries/prc/main].


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.)


For an eight-part podcast series on Xi Jinping by The Economist see [https://www.economist.com/theprincepod]

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.  
Two books that are predominantly positive about Mao Zedong’s rule.  
Five recent popular books about the PRC economy and society  
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 deaths/murders in the various phases during the period covered was not yet known. 114min. Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsh2FHq0tUA
**Interpretative précis and presentation to the class**

Length: 1 page (maximum 500 words) or less is best.
   If you really, really need more space, the absolute maximum is 2 pages.
   Page formatting: 12 point font size (for Times New Roman), 1 inch margins; single line spacing, do not right-adjust

Obtain the text of your chosen (and approved) précis now. It’s probably on Canvas. If not, and if you can’t find it yourself, let the instructor know.

Submit your précis in ‘Discussions’ on Canvas (copy/paste, or pdf) 24+ hours before class. In the subject line, put “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 to hold (“identification strategy”).
   If an empirical argument is involved, pay special attention to the dataset used and to the empirical testing.
   What’s the finding?
   Say why we should care about the paper. This can include the paper’s contribution to the existing literature. (For example: 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.) Write out this explanation (= your précis).

In your presentation to the class,
   you can but need not use powerpoint;
   speak freely (don’t read verbatim from notes);
   tell a good story and/or structure your presentation;
   and make sure you get your major point(s) across.

If you use powerpoint slides, you can, for example, use one slide for each item (0) – (3) above. Try to have only a few key words in writing and to speak freely. If the paper has
charts/tables and you find them useful for the presentation, then those will take up extra 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). Double-spaced or 1.75 line spaced would be good, 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.

*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.