1 Class information

Teaching team

Instructor: Kwan To Wong (KT)
Email: kwanto@ust.hk
Office: 2356
Office Hours: Thurs 1500-1600 (by appointment)

TA: Roy Ho
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Office: 2359
Office Hours: Tue, Thurs 1500-1600

Class Time: 1500-1620 on Wednesday and Friday
Class Venue: LG426

2 Course Description

This course begins with the discussion of the concepts, principles, and research methodology of sustainable development. The main objective of the course is designed to understand and analyze sustainable development issues in China.

China’s sustainable development issues to be covered include economic structure, political economy, rural areas, financial system, energy, environment, transportation and urbanization, climate change, and many others. Governance and policy, technology, organizational and individual behavior are important elements affecting sustainable development.

After the general introduction of sustainable development, we will cover various aspects of the development of China’s economy over last 40 years to provide a concrete context to think
about making development sustainable. Recent research work related China’s sustainable development will be examined. At last, students are offered the opportunity to show their work on the topic of their interests on China’s sustainable development.

Sustainable development is an area of study and practice with few clear answers. Moreover, the study of sustainable development has to meet specific “environmental” challenges in within a social/political/economic setting by adopting various concepts, models, and statistical tools during analysis.

### 3 Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain and understand the concepts, principles and significance of sustainable development
2. Understand and critique the existing assessment methodologies for evaluating sustainable development
3. Explore solutions for achieving a more sustainable development path for China from a multi-disciplinary perspective
4. Understand and explain the drivers, origins and challenges behind development issues in China
5. Apply the principles of sustainable development to evaluate and analyse environmental issues and sustainable development in China

### 4 Learning Activities

1. Lectures
2. In-class discussions
3. Quiz
4. Student individual presentations and student-led discussions
5. Group Projects and presentations

### 5 Assessment Strategies (Full Mark: 100)

1. Class Participation (10%)
2. Quiz (30%)
3. Individual Presentation and discussion (15%)
4. One Group Project Report (30%) + One Group Presentation (15%)
5.1 Class Participation

- Your active participation will be essential for the learning experience in this course

5.2 Individual Presentation and discussion

- Individual presentation of an academic paper listed in Canvas. The details (papers, presentation arrangement, etc) will be announced later in Canvas.
- The presentation should contain a summary of key components of the paper, including (but not limited to)
  - research question(s)
  - significance/relevance to the literature
  - choices of data source(s)
  - measurement of key variables
  - methodology
  - main findings
  - interpretation of the results
- The tentative plan is to have the (30-min max) individual presentation of the paper from 9th week onward (depending on the number of enrollments) \(^1\)
- Next-time presenter will play a role as a discussant to make comments and/or lead a ~10-min discussion among classmates right after the presentation
- Depending on number of enrollment, it could happen that there will be more one-student presenting a particular paper and in that case, each student’s presentation time and discussant arrangement will be adjusted accordingly

5.3 Group Project

- This will be a case study on China’s sustainable development issues proposed by students
- The choice of topic should be “social science-oriented”
- A group of three students will be formed yourselves (any number other than this needs prior approval)
- The report has upper word limit of 3000, excluding tables, photos/images, graphs, reference lists
- The style and format of the report should be similar to those of the research papers presented in class or in the reference list on Canvas
- The last week of the semester will be reserved for the presentation \(^2\)

\(^1\)Video recording for the presentations might be applied
\(^2\)Video recording for the presentations might be applied
• Each group member needs to present and there could be some individual bonus/penalty from the overall group performance

5.4 One Quiz

• One-hour quiz will be made on May 3 unless later adjustment needs to be made
• The content will be mainly about the presentation papers as well as the background materials covered in class
• No show means Fail on this part, which accounts for 30% of the total marks
• No Makeup will be made unless for emergence events, like giving birth (Job interviews, Study trips, etc. will not count)

6 Course Schedule (tentative)

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Course Overview; Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>Feb 7, Feb 9</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>Feb 14, Feb 16</td>
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<td>Chinese Political economy</td>
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<td>Feb 21, Feb 23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rural Economy</td>
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<td>Feb 28, Mar 1</td>
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<td>Industrial Policy</td>
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<td>Apr 12, Apr 17</td>
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7 References


