

ECONOMICS OF CHINA
ECON 4485
Spring 2016
Dr. Adrian Austin and Dr. William (Joey) Smith

Dr. Adrian Austin
1315 Business Building
Phone: (678) 839-4773
E-mail: aaustin@westga.edu

Office Hours:
Tuesday 9:00 – 11:30 & 3:30 – 5:00
Thursday 10:00 – 11:30 & 3:30 – 5:00

Dr. Joey Smith
1307 Business Building
Phone: (678) 839-4771
E-mail: wjsmith@westga.edu

Office Hours:
Monday 8:00 – 12:00
Tuesday 3:30 – 5:30
Wednesday 8:00 – 12:00

Course Description and Objectives:

The course will give students a chance to gain a better understanding of the Chinese economy, business environment and culture. The course will require that students complete pre-trip readings and other assignments on China. The visit to Beijing and Shanghai will provide an opportunity to learn first-hand about these topics. Upon return, students will complete a post-trip paper assignment. Our expectations for the students are that they will be able demonstrate a basic understanding of globalization issues (LG5) and the Chinese economy (LG4).

Schedule:

Friday, January 15, 2016	Orientation Meeting 9:00AM Miller Hall
Wednesday, January 20, 2016	Quiz 1 and Discussion 1 Posted
Wednesday, January 27, 2016	Quiz 1 and Discussion 1 Due
Wednesday, February 03, 2016	Quiz 2 and Discussion 2 Posted
Wednesday, February 10, 2016	Quiz 2 and Discussion 4 Due
Wednesday, February 17, 2016	Quiz 3 and Discussion 3 Posted
Friday, February 19, 2016	Event with Chinese Exchange Students - Time & Location TBD
Wednesday, February 24, 2016	Quiz 3 and Discussion 3 Due
Wednesday, March 02, 2016	Quiz 4 and Discussion 4 Posted
Friday, March 04, 2016	Pre Departure Meeting 9:00AM Location TBD

Wednesday, March 09, 2016
Thursday, March 10, 2016
Sunday, March 20, 2016
Friday, April 08, 2016

Quiz 4 and Discussion 4 Due
Depart for China
Return from China
Paper Due 11:59PM

Readings:

NOTE:

Journal Articles can be found using the Article Search on the homepage of the library. All other reading/videos are linked on CourseDen).

Some of the Journal Articles contain some mathematical formulas. You are not required to know or understand these technical points.

Module 1

- 1) VIDEO: [China from the Inside 1](#)
- 2) Hessen, Robert (2007). "[Capitalism.](#)" [The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics.](#)
- 3) Heilbroner, Robert (2007). "[Socialism.](#)" [The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics.](#)
- 4) *Understanding China's Growth: Past, Present and Future*, [Journal of Economic Perspectives](#), Fall 2012
- 5) Lin, Justin Yifu, 1995. "The Needham Puzzle: Why the Industrial Revolution Did Not Originate in China," *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 43(2): 269-292.

Discussion 1 and Quiz 1 Posted: January 20.

Discussion 1 and Quiz 1 Due: January 27 at 11:59PM.

Module 2

- 1) VIDEO: [China from the Inside 2](#)
- 2) Perkins, D. 1988. "Reforming China's Economic System," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 26(2): 601-645.
- 3) Qian, Y. et al. 1999. "From Federalism, Chinese Style, to Privatization, Chinese Style," *Economics of Transition*, 7(1): 103-131.
- 4) Kornai, J. et al. 2003. "Understanding the Soft Budget Constraint," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 41(4): 1095-1136.

Discussion 2 and Quiz 2 Posted: February 3.

Discussion 2 and Quiz 2 Due: February 10 at 11:59PM.

Module 3

- 1) VIDEO: [China from the Inside 3](#)
- 2) VIDEO: People's Republic of Capitalism [Pt. 1](#) and [Pt. 2](#)
- 3) Huang, Y. S. 2008. "Just How Capitalist Is China?," MIT Sloan Working Papers.

Discussion 3 and Quiz 3 Posted: February 17.

Discussion 3 and Quiz 3 Due: February 24 at 11:59PM.

Module 4

- 1) VIDEO: [China from the Inside 4](#)
- 2) VIDEO: People's Republic of Capitalism [Pt. 3](#) and [Pt. 4](#)
- 3) Special Report on State Capitalism, Economist Magazine, Jan. 21, 2012
 - a. [The visible hand](#)
 - b. [Something old, something new](#)
 - c. [New masters of the universe ; State capitalism's global reach](#)
 - d. [Theme and variations ; A choice of models](#)
 - e. [The rise of state capitalism](#)
 - f. [Mixed bag ; Pros and cons](#)
 - g. [The world in their hands ; Going abroad](#)
 - h. [And the winner is... ; The long view](#)
- 4) Special Report on Business in China, Economist Magazine, Sep. 12, 2015.
 - a. [Back to business; Business in China](#)
 - b. [How red is your capitalism?; Definitions](#)
 - c. [Paper tiger, roaring dragon; Private firms](#)
 - d. [It's all go; Entrepreneurship and technology](#)
 - e. [Fast and furious; Innovation](#)
 - f. [The wild, wild east; Consumers](#)
 - g. [Still made in China; Manufacturing](#)
 - h. [The new Silk Road; Foreign investment](#)
 - i. [The good, the bad and the ugly; Reform](#)

Discussion 4 and Quiz 4 Posted: March 2.

Discussion 4 and Quiz 4 Due: March 9 at 11:59PM.

Quizzes:

All quizzes can be found on CourseDen. Click on the assessments link in CourseDen to participate.

Discussions:

Using CourseDen, students will participate in discussion forums. Dialog is asynchronous and students will participate in each discussion by "posting" a response to questions or comments posed to the class. There will be several threaded discussion topics related to material covered during the semester. Students will be graded based on the frequency and quality of participation:

Frequency: Students must participate or "post" a minimum of three times in EACH threaded discussion forum (also known as discussion topics). There will be four discussion forums. Click on the discussions link in CourseDen to participate.

NOTE:

A student cannot post all of their posts on one day.
There must be at least three separate days of posting .

Quality: Students SHOULD provide additional information regarding a topic; find relevance to the information/discussion and explain why; present alternative explanations; and/or elaborate on ideas already discussed. Students SHOULD NOT post offensive comments; agree or disagree without elaborating why; duplicate information already presented; cut and paste other's responses; plagiarize information; and participate in "flaming" or online arguing and name-calling.

NOTE:

Each post must have a minimum of 4-5 sentences (i.e. a traditional paragraph)

Each sentence must be complete and contain proper use of grammar.

Each post must contain a specific question to get other students engaged in a deeper and critical conversation. A general question such as "what does everyone else think?" does not count!

Each post must contain a reference to the book or some other source that supports your thoughts and opinion on a topic.

If any of the above criteria are not met, then the student may receive either a zero or a prorated grade. If students do not satisfy the criteria for frequency AND quality criteria, then they will not receive credit for participation. Furthermore, the forums are only available during a very specific time frame listed below. Be mindful of those times. The instructor will not reopen a forum for any reason.

Grading:

- 1) 40 percent based on participation.
- 2) 40 percent based on completion of 4 online modules. Each module contains readings and videos and will require the completion of participation in a discussion forum and a short quiz.
- 3) 20 percent based on a post-trip paper

Attendance, Participation and Professionalism:

Unless a specific exception is made, students are expected to participate in all on-campus and well as all the required components of the program in Beijing and Shanghai. Students will be treated as professionals and are expected to act accordingly. This includes respecting your fellow students and our hosts in China. On the trip, we expect that you will not put yourself in a situation which may cause problems for yourself, your classmates, our host, or for any of the instructors.

Note: Unless a specific exception is made, missing any of the on-campus meetings or required components of the program in China will result in the loss of a letter grade.